

Victorian Medicine

Thursday 17th March, 2016

This talk was given by Mr Ian Waller, a retired genealogist. He gave a very interesting and enlightening talk about how you could expect to be treated if you were a patient in Victorian times. He looked at the many aspects of medical practices during that time, from the discovery and use of anaesthetics and antiseptics to the different types of instruments used during major surgery – quite scary!

Many of the hospitals were privately run and only the rich could afford to go to the best. However there was a system available by which the poor could also be treated but this relied on them being recommended for treatment by someone of stature in the community.

One thing that surprised many of us was the way the recently deceased were remembered, especially children. Photographs of a family's dead child were taken usually with them posed alongside their living siblings. It was so well done that it was quite difficult to make out the deceased from the living children, quite peculiar.

The boy on the far left in the picture is in fact deceased.

