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SURGEON-GENERAL SIR WILLIAM DANIEL CAMPBELL
WILLIAMS, K.C.M.G., C.B., K.St.J.

(1856 – 1919)

William Williams, who signed his name as W.D.Campbell Williams on his petition to become a mason and who became affectionately known simply as 'Mo' Williams, was born in Sydney in July 1856.¹

His English-born father, who had a successful medical practice in Sydney, had young William educated at Sydney Grammar School and the London University College Medical School where he was admitted a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons (M.R.C.S.) in 1879 and a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians (L.R.C.P.) the following year.²

He was awarded a gold medal in surgery and, after a year as an intern in the University hospital, he returned to Sydney to open a practice at Darlinghurst.

Shortly afterwards he was gazetted a staff surgeon with the rank of Captain in the New South Wales Artillery.

On 21 June 1881, Williams married Florence Severn and they were to have two sons and a daughter.

In 1885, the acting Premier of New South Wales, Bro. Hon. William Bede Dalley, authorised a contingent of troops for service in the Sudan Campaign.³ They were led by Bro. Colonel John Richardson and Williams, who had been promoted to Major, sailed with the contingent as Principal Medical Officer.

Williams enjoyed soldering and the campaign gave him the opportunity to test his ideas for the medical arrangements for an army in field. He was mentioned in despatches and awarded the Khedive's Star.

He then attended a course of instruction in administration and training at Aldershot in England.

On his return to Sydney, he resumed his practice and became a consulting surgeon at St.Vincent's Hospital and, on Colonel Richardson's advice, he was appointed Principal Medical Officer of the army in New South Wales.

