

**Otago Medical School Alumnus Association
2013 History of Medicine Series**

**Thursday 22nd August 2013 at 5.15pm.
Room G30, Hunter Centre, Great King Street**

**Kirsty Clarke will present
“The appearance of the normal face is dependent
upon function”: a history of Cleft Palate Surgery
in New Zealand.**



This presentation examines the work of Percy and Cecily Pickerill, a husband and wife team of plastic surgeons who ran the Bassam Hospital in Lower Hutt between 1939 and 1967. Their small, private plastic surgery clinic performed the majority of operations on babies with facial deformities during this period. Examination of the Pickerills' publications and private correspondence reveal the combination of aesthetic and functional motivations for performing complex operations on infants as young as ten weeks. These writings also demonstrate the alliance between plastic surgery and psychiatry by describing the role the Pickerills, as surgeons, played in protecting the child from the emotional trauma of growing up with facial disfigurement.

All interested are welcome