

IT IS amazing what you can pick up at a car boot sale and what Ann Bullingham has picked up at various car boot sales over the years are 'Things that nice people don't talk about'!

That was the intriguing title of a talk Ann gave at the Kyrle Probus New Year lunch attended by more than 50 members and wives at the Chase Hotel recently. The 'things' were a collection of items used in the medical profession, some dating back to the Second World War.

A nurse by profession, Ann explained she had been collecting these items for between 15 and 20 years. Many of them she had found at car boot sales in places like Gloucester and Cheltenham, while some of them had somehow 'found her'.

She brought along many items to put on display at the Probus lunch and had many amusing and interesting tales to tell about most of them. The collection ranged from bedpans to ointments and from obstetric forceps to an early gas and air machine. There were wonderful claims made for some of the items, but these would have predated the Trades Description Act.



She talked about her Porton respirator, which had come from the research laboratory at Porton Down when they were trying to find a cure for the common cold. The gas and air machine, used on maternity wards, she got at a car boot sale in Gloucester at a really low price. She said she had later been offered a four figure sum for it by a medical equipment representative.

Ann said there had been many offers to buy items in her collection over the years, but she would never sell any of them. When she no longer wanted them, she would donate the collection to a medical museum, she said.

A vote of thanks for a totally absorbing presentation was given by immediate past president, David Kennedy.