Doctor Colenso, I Presume: missionary medical practice in midnineteenth century New Zealand

Ian St George. Published by the Colenso Society Inc. ISBN 978-0-9876604-1-1. Available from the Colenso Society at 32 Hawkestone St, Thorndon, Wellington 6011 (istge@yahoo.co.nz) for $10

This small soft-covered paperback book is an account of missionary medical practice in New Zealand in the midnineteenth century as illustrated by the work of Rev. William Colenso in the Wairarapa and Hawke’s Bay.

It contains 59 pages with black-and-white pictures. This book is somewhat difficult to follow and is not written in any conventional format. The book is written from a selection of writings of Dr Colenso. It is difficult to work out why these particular words were chosen. There are sections that can be followed and understood giving a small perspective of what life as a doctor may have been like for Dr Colenso. I enjoy medical history books, but I struggled with this book.

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