

A Welsh Doctor in Liverpool: The Life of Emyr Wyn Jones

John Stewart*

This talk examined the life of the Welsh heart physician Emyr Wyn Jones (1907-1999) and his work in the city of Liverpool, where he pursued his career for almost his entire professional life. The relationship between North Wales – where Wyn Jones was born – and Liverpool was a longstanding one, in medical as well as other matters. Wyn Jones thus followed an established route from rural North Wales to the major city of Liverpool where he not only practised but also where he received his training in the first place. As a physician, his career embraced both the pre-war voluntary hospital system – at Liverpool Royal Infirmary - and the coming of the National Health Service. This period was, though, important not only administratively but also in terms of the rapid advances in all forms of medical diagnosis and treatment not least in heart medicine, the specialism in which Wyn Jones was trained. More than this, though, Wyn Jones was himself an historian – of medicine and other matters - and the talk assessed the significance of this aspect of his life against his more general views on medicine. The sources used were thus the writings of Wyn Jones himself and the interviews which I carried out with its subject in the mid-1990s. In addition, and in the light of recent work on the history of medicine in Wales, the life and times of Emyr Wyn Jones can be placed in a broader context.

* Address for correspondence: School of Law and Social sciences, Glasgow Caledonian University, Glasgow, G4 0BA. John.stewart@gcal.ac.uk