

W.H.Gilmour and an Emerging Dental Profession

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William Henry Gilmour's career spanned a period of great change in British dentistry. He was born in 1869 in Liverpool, and died in 1942 during which time dentistry moved from an unregulated craft or trade to a profession. It may help to begin with a few landmark dates and events to establish some markers in this account. Let us look at the situation about 150 years ago in the mid-nineteenth century.¹ Dentists were unregistered and unregulated at that time. They comprised three groups. First, educated men (all men!) with medical or surgical qualifications. There were not many of these and they were mainly in London and large towns or cities. Second, those who entered practice after an apprenticeship to a dentist but who had no formal qualifications like the surgeon dentists. Third, there was a large group of uneducated, untrained and unqualified people, colloquially known as 'quacks', who blatantly advertised, to the disapproval of professional men.

About 1855 there began to be agitation for a College of Dentists and simultaneously some eminent London practitioners petitioned the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) to establish an examination in Dental Surgery. As a result of this 'agitation' and the Medical Act of 1858, the RCS England was enabled to examine and grant certificates of fitness to practice Dental Surgery. The first Licence in Dental Surgery England examination was held in 1860.²

There also became evident a desire to tackle the problem of 'quackery' and unprincipled practices. A Dental Reform Committee lobbied Parliament, and with compromises to satisfy the British Medical Association (BMA) and the chemists, who both felt they had a role to play in dental services, a Bill was introduced and became law in July 1878 - another landmark in the evolution of dentistry. This restricted the practice by dentists to those registered and it also safeguarded the rights of doctors to practice dentistry. A Dentists Register was set up, kept by the General Medical Council. It contained the Licentiates and those covered by a 'Grandfather' clause (i.e. an established dentist already in practice). But this did not put a stop to unregistered practice as the unregistered simply called themselves 'Dental Operators' and the like. In 1880 the British Dental Association was founded to consolidate the professional status of the registered dentists. That, very briefly, was the position of dentistry in the last 50 years of Queen Victoria's reign.

Where does Gilmour fit into this: who was he and what did he do? He was born on 31 December 1869, four years after the end of the American Civil War which had such a profound effect on the cotton trade in Lancashire and Liverpool. It was a time when Gladstone and Disraeli were alternating as Prime Minister and the year the Suez Canal was opened. Great Britain was a rich and powerful nation due to the lead that the Industrial Revolution had provided over the Americans and Germans.

William Henry Gilmour was born in Toxteth Park Liverpool.³ His parents were of Manx extraction, and his mother's maiden name of Kinvig is Scandinavian. He was a delicate child who lost time at school through indifferent health, (unspecified, but it seems to have been a handicap in his learning). He was educated at the Liverpool Institute in the Commercial School, whose function was to provide an education suitable for boys who would become clerks and book keepers in the commercial houses of the city. It was not the

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¹ R.A. Cohen (ed.), *The Advance of the Dental Profession* (British Dental Association, 1979).

² An LDS Diploma of the RCS. is on view in the museum at Liverpool Dental School dated 1875.

³ H.M. Clothier, 'Men of Note', *Dental Magazine and Oral Topics*, 52; 12 (1935), 1169-81.

home of the academic high-fliers who aimed for university entrance. Gilmour, we are told, was unable to play games - one wonders if he suffered from some respiratory insufficiency which he later grew out of, for in his later years he was a very energetic, much traveled man who seems not to have been incommoded by ill-health.⁴

Career Choice

How did Gilmour decide to become a dentist? He explained this himself in 1938, shortly after he retired.

‘Something over 50 years ago I finished school and desired occupation in the realm of Chemistry. My father made enquiries and was informed that for a manufacturing chemist capital would be required, and suggested a dispensing chemist, which did not appeal to me at all. My father was misinformed, for I think it was a time when chemistry was entering a new and great activity. Having no other choice in mind, except a dislike of office work, I was introduced to dentistry. This appealed to me as being something akin to my choice of chemistry and I became apprenticed to a registered dentist.’⁵

In 1885, at the age of 15 years, Gilmour took up his apprenticeship. Who the registered dentist was we do not know. It will be recalled that the Register had been set up only seven years earlier to list the men with the LDS qualification and also those in ‘bona fide’ practice at the time. Gilmour served a five year apprenticeship, mainly in dental mechanical work, casting models, packing, flasking and finishing vulcanite dentures, but he wanted to become a registered dentist himself. To do that he needed extra academic qualifications. His employer discouraged him, but Gilmour was determined (at age 18 or so) to study in his spare time the Latin and other subjects so he could pass the preliminary examination for entry into Liverpool Dental Hospital, which had been founded in 1860 (the University College Liverpool was established in 1880).⁶ Gilmour enrolled in 1888 and spent two years in hospital training, during which time he won the Quinbey prize for operative dentistry, and then went to London to the Royal Dental Hospital, whence he took the LDS (England) in 1892. He then returned to Liverpool and was appointed a House Surgeon at the Dental Hospital. The Dean at that time was Richard Edwards whose name is commemorated today in the Edwards Building, the Research Wing behind the current Dental Hospital, for which he donated £73,000 many years ago.⁷ At this time Gilmour expressed privately his ambition to become Dean himself one day and identify himself with the hospital’s future.⁸

However, before settling in Liverpool for good he decided on a rather unusual move to France. Perhaps he wanted broader experience (as he probably did when he went to the Royal Dental Hospital in London). Also he probably thought that he should go before the ties of private practice prevented work overseas. Whatever the motive, he went and became an assistant to a Dr Field-Robinson in Bordeaux in 1893. Robinson was an American and one of the best dentists of his time. Gilmour learned much from this American and Continental training in practice, and this period gave him an international outlook, and led to

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ G.E.M. Hallett, 1985 Gilmour Lecture (unpublished).

⁶ Cohen, *The Advances of the Dental Profession*.

⁷ The Edwards Building now houses research laboratories and a splendid Reading Room and Museum.

⁸ Clothier, ‘Men of Note’.

introductions which were later of much value, for example in his work in the Federation Dentaire Internationale (FDI).⁹

Returning to Liverpool in 1895 he established himself in practice in Rodney Street at No.51A. How did he finance his two years in London, his time in Bordeaux and set up in practice? His parents were not wealthy people and he was the second of five children. In the BDA records his father's occupation is listed as 'Training; Joiner and Builder', later as 'Hotel management'. Mr Gilmour did not have to pay a premium for his son's apprenticeship at age 15 - this was often required of those who could pay.¹⁰ One might have thought Gilmour would have joined an existing practice and shared the expenses but Gore's commercial directory for 1896 shows he shared with medical men and not with dental colleagues. At the same time, 1895, he was again appointed House Surgeon at the Dental Hospital at 50 Mount Pleasant. In 1897 he was promoted to Honorary Dental Surgeon and in the next year was made Warden (part-time) of the School and Hospital.¹¹

In this year he married Amy Carr, a nurse from the Royal Infirmary (it is also said she was at the Royal Free Hospital at one time - perhaps they met when he was in London). They had a son and a daughter and Mrs Gilmour was his constant support throughout his strenuous life. She was a successful author, gaining most of her material from her travels in Spain and Morocco. Their son became Medical Superintendent of Killingbeck sanatorium near Leeds.

If we now consider the position of Gilmour in 1898, at the age of 28 years, we see that he was Warden (Director of Studies) at the Dental Teaching School, responsible for staffing and teaching, had just married, and had a practice to conduct. The Warden appointment at age 28 was a surprise to him and it apparently upset many of the older staff members who promptly resigned.¹² This turned out to be a blessing in disguise for it gave the opportunity to appoint young and enthusiastic men to fill the vacancies, and the Hospital had a harmonious team of staff for many years. Also in 1898 other changes were afoot. This was a time when the Dental School became formally associated with the Faculty of Medicine of University College.

The Liverpool Medical School predated the Liverpool University College by some 50 years and it still had a financial entity separate from it. The Medical School made a loan to the Dental School to enable it to bring about the changes required by the Royal College of Surgeons of England regarding the provision of suitable training facilities for its students.¹³ This required were the appointment of a Warden and the building and equipping of a mechanical laboratory, and placing teaching under the control of the Faculty of Medicine. In 1998 the Dental School held a celebration to mark the centenary of the first establishment of formal links with the University College.

In 1903 University College became the University of Liverpool and a Board of Dental Studies was established to oversee and regulate the teaching of dental students. Gilmour was elected as secretary in 1905 and remained in post until his retirement in 1935. He obviously felt the post was pivotal to the board's activity and it kept him well informed and able to influence affairs.¹⁴ Although the new University had power to grant its own degrees, it still had to obtain recognition of these as primary qualifications on the Dentists Register by the GMC. One of the first acts of the new Board, meeting under the chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor Dale, was to apply for this recognition. Also at this meeting Gilmour was given the task of seeking opinions of the Professors and Lecturers of the School about the present

⁹ Clothier, 'Men of Note'.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Liverpool University Board of Dental Studies, 1905.

position and conditions in the Dental School. This enquiry probably gave Gilmour great scope to express his views about what the premises and the facilities should be. He had realized for a number of years that the premises at 50 Mount Pleasant were inadequate and dreamed of having a purpose-built Hospital.

The Board decided that the syllabus of the Dental School should be posted to all dentists and doctors in the neighbouring counties, Wales, the Isle of Man and NE Ireland. Composition fees were set at £61.11s. for the LDS course.¹⁵ Gilmour was influential in setting the curriculum which in 1905 comprised: Chemistry, Physics, Zoology, Anatomy, Physiology, Histology and Medicine and Surgery along with the Dental subjects: Dental Mechanics and Metallurgy, Dental Materia Medica, Dental Anatomy, Physiology, Histology, Dental Pathology and Bacteriology, Dental Surgery, clinical and operative.

At this time advertising of dental practices was greatly frowned upon, because this was the primary method used by the untrained practitioners to gain business. Gilmour was asked by the Board of Dental Studies to draft a non-advertising agreement for holders of the LDS or BDS of the University. Later the question was raised, 'Did the University have power to remove names from the list of graduates of those who did advertise?'.¹⁶ No more was heard of the proposal.

In 1906 Gilmour was appointed Lecturer by the University. He played a considerable part in setting up courses and regulations for the Degrees and Licences now granted by the University. In that year the first two men passed the BDS degree examination. In the following year 1907 the degree of MDS was conferred by recommendation of the Senate on Gilmour, Richard Edwards and E A Councill.

A new Dental Hospital

Gilmour was now determined that money should not be spent on improving or extending the Hospital in Mount Pleasant. This, of course, was a charitable institution dependent on voluntary donations, gifts and legacies and run by a Committee of Management, not to be confused with the Dental Board.¹⁷ Like most charities it staggered along, always with a negative balance. The Annual Report of 1894 states that, 'Financial matters still worried the Committee a great deal for example not only the debit balance (from fitting out the Conservation Room) but other items such as the mortgage (£959 on 50 Mount Pleasant)'.¹⁸ The treasurer's ever present debit balance looms large in many Annual reports.

But in 1903, after the death of the Chairman Sir James Poole, the Hospital (by now under the Presidency of Lord Derby) was fortunate 'in obtaining the consent of Mr Louis S. Cohen to join the Committee and he has been duly elected Chairman'.¹⁹ The Committee was indeed fortunate as we shall see. Alderman Cohen became interested in the possibility of a new building. Gilmour, with the support of Mr J A Woods, newly appointed to the Senior Dental Staff and with a seat on the Management Committee, called a special meeting of the staff and eventually £1000 was promised for the new building. This came to the attention of Alderman Cohen and the support of the staff convinced him of the necessity of a new site and a purpose-built building. Alderman Cohen and Sir William Hartley supported the scheme very generously and the architect Mr C de G Frazer was Cohen's own architect.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ J. Hopper, *The History of the Liverpool Dental Hospital 1860-1960* (Liverpool, United Liverpool Hospitals, 1960).

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

By the end of 1907 the Building Fund was £6000. In all this endeavour the committee had ‘The cordial co-operation of the University and the Royal Infirmary’.²⁰ The cost of the 1910 Dental Hospital was £13,493.5.2d and it was opened by Lord Derby who had succeeded his father as seventeenth Earl in 1907.²¹ The Dental School continued to flourish, with more than 100 students by 1913-14, though it must be confessed that only ten were taking the degree course. Gilmour became the first Director of Dental Education.²²

There is no doubt that the inspiration and driving force behind the building of the new Hospital was Gilmour. He secured the respect and support of the University, and of the Management Committee and Lord Derby, of Alderman Cohen and the Lord Mayor and Councillors of the city and the general local public. Although it has now gone, demolished in 1970 to make way for the present Dental Hospital, the 1910 building was a most important milestone in the advance of the profession, particularly in the North West (it was another 30 years before Manchester had a modern purpose-built Dental Hospital). By a happy chance the British Dental Association Annual Meeting was held in Liverpool in 1910 and members were able to see the fine new Building in Pembroke Place. In the wider field Gilmour was a prominent member of the BDA, and did out-standing work as one of its representatives on the International Dental Federation (FDI). He took great interest in dentistry worldwide and was President of the Education Section of the ill-fated Congress of 1914, during which war was declared, and the delegates left suddenly. Later he was made President of Honour of the Section in Paris in 1931 and was President of the Legislation Committee from 1931 to 1936.

In 1913 the Board of Dental Studies made a proposal to establish a Faculty of Dental Surgery but this was rejected by the University Senate. But the Board was given greater powers, for example, the Secretary (Gilmour) was to be associated with the Dean of Medicine at the registration of dental students, and the Secretary would sign the applications by dental students for examinations. Also it was proposed that two professorships be established and there to be a greater role for the Director of Dental Education. In November 1913 the Faculty approved the establishment of a Chair (un-endowed) in Dental Surgery.

By now the LDS Composition fee was £100, and required two years mechanical dentistry and two years Hospital Practice. At this time the External Examiner (A Hopewell Smith of London and visiting Professor at Pennsylvania) wrote to the Board of Dental Studies with his high opinion of the excellence of the work displayed for the Final Examinations, ‘In every respect the teaching and training of students at Liverpool Dental Hospital is of the best. I extend to the staff congratulations on the results of their labours’. The Great War put an end to hopes of further development for the duration. Gilmour was not called up (age 44) but he was very active in the war. He organized dental treatment for Naval ratings, visited Boulogne Base Hospital in 1916 to study facial fractures and treatment and was on the consulting staff of the Western General Military Hospital. With the end of the war came several important changes: For one thing the Dental School was full to overflowing with students and there were 86 new entrants in 1919.

Chair in Dental Surgery

In 1920 Alderman Cohen, Chairman of the Committee, gave the University £15,000 to endow a Chair in Dental Surgery. The post of Professor was full time and the stipend was £1000 a year. It was recorded that the appointment was to be made by invitation and in October 1920 Gilmour was invited to take up the Chair. He was at that time paid £975 for a

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ He was Chancellor of Liverpool University until his death in 1947.

²² T. Kelly, *For the Advancement of Learning – the University of Liverpool, 1881-1981* (Liverpool, Liverpool University Press, 1981), p.159.

half time appointment and it was recorded that, 'W H Gilmour, Director of Dental Education gave up his lucrative private practice to become the first holder of the new Chair'.²³ The salary was at once altered to £1400 on the basis that £400 was to be paid in respect of his role as Director. This arrangement for some years put him in the position of being the highest paid Professor of the University, and for many years he was the only Professor of Dentistry in the UK. In 1921 the Dental School was transferred entirely to the University which took over its assets and promised to build additional premises. The Dental Hospital provided the land in Boundary Place for this purpose but otherwise was not affected by this new arrangement, remaining independent until taken over by the Ministry of Health in 1948.

Also in 1921 important new legislation came in. The Dentists Act of 1878 still applied, but had proved ineffective because although it established a Register it did not forbid unregistered persons to practice. Anyone, however ignorant or unskilled might practice dentistry and thousands did under misleading titles such as dental operator, teeth adaptor and so on. A Committee of Enquiry was set up by the Government in 1917 under Sir Francis Dyke Acland M.P. 'To investigate the extent and gravity of the evils connected with the practice of dentistry by persons not qualified under the Dentists Act and consider and report upon: The causes of the inadequate supply of qualified dentists; the expediency of legislation prohibiting the practice of dentistry and dental surgery by unqualified persons and if so, the conditions under which certain classes of unqualified persons at present practicing dentistry might be permitted to continue by institution of a special roll for the purpose; the practicality of modifying the course of study and examination prescribed for dental qualification'.²⁴

The Report was published in 1919 and provided a detailed account of the state of dentistry at that time which was horrifying. It stated there were great evils associated with the practice of dentistry by persons not qualified under the Dentists Act. As a result of these evils it said the public esteem and social status of the dental profession were lowered and owing to the consequent unattractiveness of the profession there was a great shortage of registered dentists. Members of the public were unable to distinguish between registered and unregistered practitioners with the result that their dental treatment was largely in the hands of uneducated, untrained and unskilled persons. This had resulted in extensive malpractice as detailed in the Report, for example, unnecessary extractions, rotting stumps left in and covered by dentures, advertising was rife etc. Gilmour later reflected in 1938 that 'Those of you who have only realized dentistry today can hardly visualize how disgusting these advertising practices were and how badly handicapped the ethical practitioner was professionally and socially'.²⁵

The Acland Report further stated that 'Registered practitioners were unevenly distributed, in towns and more prosperous areas where more lucrative practice was possible'.²⁶ The Report made many recommendations but chiefly that the practice of dentistry by unregistered persons should cease. The Dental Board of the UK was set up as, in effect, a sub-committee of the General Medical Council and three members were appointed to sit on the GMC for consideration of dental matters. Gilmour with Guy (Edinburgh) and Dolamore (London) made up the three members of the thirteen members of the Dental Board of the UK who had seats on the GMC. Gilmour had his seat from 1921 to 1924. The Board busied itself with registration of dental practitioners, grants to teaching hospitals, bursaries for students, examinations and the appointment of Visitors to dental schools - all under the aegis of the GMC - and so it remained until 1957. A retention fee of £5 was paid by all on the Dentists Register. In 1924 the Register had a total of 13,110 registrants, comprising 5,032 graduates

²³ Kelly, *For the Advancement of Learning*, p.255.

²⁴ Cohen, *Advance of the Dental Profession*.

²⁵ Hallett, 1895 Gilmour Lecture.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

and licenciates 7,310 dentists from the 1921 register and even 768 Dentists from the original 1878 Register.

Unqualified practitioners could get onto the Register if they were *bona fide* dentists of five or more years standing and who also passed before 1931 an examination prescribed by the Dental Board. If they had been in practice for fewer than five years the examination had to be taken by July 1923. The Liverpool University Board of Dental Studies, probably guided by Gilmour as a member of the GMC, wrote a fairly detailed description of the examination required.²⁷ This is interesting because of the way Gilmour sought to help unqualified people gain an LDS. He felt many had the practical skills needed but had not the necessary chemistry, physics or zoology to pass the preliminary examination. He considered it unfair that a middle-aged man who had been in practice (unregistered) for many years should be expected to step back and pass in its entirety what might be deemed a school examination. It was made plain by the Board of Dental Studies that there would be no reduction in the standards of the final academic and technical examinations, but the proposal met with great opposition. It was declared that the LDS diploma would be 'cheapened'. Gilmour was subjected to much abuse, but the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Adami, supported the scheme and it was duly recognized. It is not known how many took advantage of this opportunity to obtain the LDS in this way.

Gilmour's Scheme to put in more people with the LDS diploma could be compared to the Statutory Examination of the General Dental Council in the late twentieth century for overseas dentists, whose degree was not recognized by the GDC. He was in effect seeking a modification of matriculation such as London University recognized for entry into dentistry. But he was very unpopular in the dental world and was not voted back on to the Dental Board of the UK when he stood in 1924 - and only returned in 1939 after retirement! He was probably a bit of ahead of his time and wasn't aware of the opposition he would provoke. There is an item from the University Board of Dental Studies in January 1923 which casts some light on the financial stringency of the time: 'Owing to the financial position of the University, faculties are informed that there will be no money available next session to meet new developments or needs'. Specifically, the position of the Board of Dental Studies was that 'The extension of 1921 cost £16,000 and it was agreed no further expenditure would be entertained until the sum was liquidated by balance of fees paid by students. The debt balance at 21.7.22 was £9,675'.²⁸

Professor Gilmour traveled widely and while attending the FDI Congress in Philadelphia in 1926 he was admitted LL.D. Penn. Honoris causa. In 1927 he was installed as President of the British Dental Association at its meeting in Liverpool. In his Address which he opened in the usual way, thanking members for the honour bestowed and 'having the confidence and trust of my colleagues'. He had perhaps by 1927 recovered from the bad press of three years earlier when the 'Gilmour Scheme' aroused such controversy, or perhaps the results of his Scheme were recognized as not having resulted in a lowering of standards. The theme of his Address was on the prevention of dental disease: 'I think I may say that most foreigners visiting this country are astounded to note the prevalence of dental caries, particularly among the people of the towns, especially in the North. How often is a good set of teeth remarked upon; how seldom the bad set of teeth calls for any remark! Further, with regard to older people, the number wearing dentures is unfortunately very obvious.' He noted, with regard to child dental health, that there were 134,750 children in public elementary schools in Liverpool and five full time dentists. Ideally there should be one per 5,000 children and on that basis 27 were needed. He said 'The ideal sounds very costly but I

²⁷ Liverpool University Board of Dental studies, 1904.

²⁸ Minutes of the Board of Dental Studies, 1923.

am convinced the expense would be nothing compared with the cost of ill health and the benefits which would accrue from a general contentment if good health were established and pain eliminated'.²⁹

It was said that Gilmour was a great organizer in the profession, not a research worker, and the expansion of training of the dental student in the first 35 years of the last century was in considerable measure due to Gilmour's recommendations to the University and the Dental Board of the UK. As the only Professor of Dental Surgery in the UK he was a powerful figure in dental education. The esteem in which he was held locally was demonstrated in 1931 when a tablet in his honour was presented by Harold L. Cohen and erected in the Liverpool Dental Hospital (unveiled by Lord Derby). The tablet exists today in the Lecture building and reads: 'In honour of William Henry Gilmour LLD MDS LDS and in commemoration of the work long sustained and distinguished which as Honorary Dental Surgeon, Warden, Director of Studies, Louis Cohen Professor he did for the Hospital and School of Dental Surgery'.

Gilmour continued to teach, administer and demonstrate until he retired in 1935. He and his wife Amy retired to North Wales to Llangwyfan near Denbigh in the Vale of Clwyd, where he had gone as a respite from Rodney Street and Pembroke Place while in work. It was there that he died suddenly on 6 April 1942. He had been very actively engaged in work for the Dental Board of the UK (to which he had been re-elected in 1939) up to the last hours of his life. In his last week he spent two days in London attending committees, one as chairman, and conducted the business for six hours without any sign of exhaustion or lack of concentration.

What, I wonder, are the lasting memorials to William Henry Gilmour and what sort of a man was he? He clearly evoked much loyalty from his students for they gathered in large numbers at the Liverpool Alumni lunches held at the Annual meetings of the BDA. He was viewed as an excellent operative dentist (his restorations of cohesive gold were reputed to be of the highest quality). It is also clear that although relatively small of stature he had enormous presence and personality. My father who was a student of his said that when Gilmour walked into a room everyone noticed. His successor the highly gifted academic Professor Hubert Stones would enter in an unobtrusive way. 'He had a military bearing' said a dentist who briefly knew Gilmour when he was interviewed in 1935.³⁰

In the Liverpool Dental School the Gilmour medal is still awarded for excellence in mechanical dentistry and the larger lecture theatre bears his name. At the entrance is a portrait of Gilmour in academic dress painted by a dentist from the Royal Dental Hospital from which Gilmour took the LDS England in 1892. This remains a reminder to successive generations of dental students of one who was the first Professor of Dentistry, who was determined we should have a proper purpose-built Dental Teaching Hospital and saw it was achieved. He developed Liverpool into the foremost school outside London. Liverpool provided the largest group of Licenciates registered in the Dentists' Register in the 1930s and 40s, though later overtaken by Newcastle and Manchester. Gilmour listed his hobbies as shooting, motoring and gardening. He was a prominent Freemason, Founder and past Master of the University Lodge and past Provincial Grand Senior Warden of West Lancashire Province.

This extract from a tribute paid by Sir Wilfred Fish in the *British Dental Journal* in 1942 neatly summarises his achievements:

²⁹ *British Dental Journal* 48: 15 1927, 881-889.

³⁰ Personal communication with K. Sargan LDS.

With the death of Professor Gilmour the first chapter of dentistry as an academic career in England has closed. When as a young man Gilmour went out to Bordeaux he began to develop an appreciation and understanding of the Continental point of view which broadened and developed as the years went by. So wide were his interests and so long has he held a high place in dental life that no one pen can do justice to the many facets of his life: his pioneer work as an educationalist, his international reputation recognized by his honorary degree in Philadelphia, his work for the BDA of which he was a past President and his membership of the first Dental Board of the UK in 1921 and his reunion lunches where his old students foregathered are some of the facets recalled. Liverpool will remember him, and the profession will remember him as an organizer, pioneer in dental education, a very human leader and not least a craftsman who believed a dentist's job was to treat teeth and who taught what he believed. How will his closest friends remember him? No family had a more devoted head, no one a more sincere companion or a truer friend. He was always open to conviction but unswervingly faithful to the truth as he saw it. He never complained at the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune directed at himself but grieved when they struck a friend. Au revoir Gillie!³¹

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³¹ *British Dental Journal* 72; 9 (1942), 232-234.