

Mr A C Brewer

Clifford Brewer who died on 29th April 2017, his 104th birthday, was for many years the Senior Consultant Surgeon to the Liverpool Royal Infirmary. He graduated at Liverpool in 1935 with honours having had an exceptional career as a student. He obtained a unique collection of University medals and prizes, Mitchell Banks Medal in anatomy; Holt Medal in physiology; Torr Gold Medal in anatomy; Rankin Exhibition in anatomy; Kanthack Medal in pathology; University Medal in pharmacology; A. C. Rich prize in medicine; Gold Medal in Gynaecology and Obstetrics and the University Gold Medal in surgery. As a student he was a gifted after-dinner speaker and represented Liverpool Medical Students in many other cities.

Following graduation he held the usual house appointments at the Liverpool Royal and was then awarded a "Rankin Exhibition in Anatomy" doing anatomical teaching and research. He became surgical registrar to Sir Robert Kelly and Senior Surgical Tutor at the Royal Infirmary. He obtained his F.R.C.S. in 1938. Brewer then moved to Oxford as Resident Surgical Officer at the Radcliffe, a post combined with that of Surgical Tutor to the University of Oxford. The new Nuffield appointments had just been made at the Radcliffe. In 1939 he was awarded a Leverhulme Fellowship at the Royal College of Surgeons, an appointment which he was unable to take up as he was an Officer in the Territorial Army being on the staff of the 6th (1st Southern) Oxford Territorial Hospital. This hospital was mobilised at the outbreak of war and was stationed at Lincoln College and the Examination Schools. The Hospital was chased out of France at Dunkirk returning to Oxford. He then saw service in Palestine, Egypt and Syria being transferred to a Field Surgical Unit. This saw service in France, Normandy and Belgium after which he became Officer in Charge of a Surgical Division. He was demobilised in 1945 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

While working in Palestine he had operated upon General Sikorski who invested him with the Order of Polonia Restituta. This allowed him to place the letters P.R. after his name, a useful distinction for a rectal surgeon.

Following the war he returned to Liverpool as Lecturer in Surgery and Clinical Assistant to the new Professor of Surgery, Charles Wells. He was appointed Consultant Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary in 1946. He was also appointed Consultant Surgeon to the Liverpool Homeopathic Hospital and to the St Helens Hospital. He was appointed Clinical Lecturer in Surgery to the University of Liverpool and Lecturer in Surgery to the Liverpool Dental School. He always enjoyed his association with the Dental School and he continued to be Lecturer in Surgery to dental students until his retirement in 1978. He was appointed Examiner in Surgery to the Royal College of Surgeons of England (Dental section) in 1949, an appointment which he held intermittently until 1970. He was an Examiner in Surgery to the University of Liverpool and to several other universities. He was a Fellow of the Association of Surgeons Great Britain.

He served on the usual host of committees which multiplied and developed with the onset of the state medical service, Medical Board Executive Council Liverpool Board of Governors, Board of Clinical Surgery, Medical Advisory Board Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, Hospital Board St Helens Medical District, Liverpool Regional Consultant and Specialist Committee, Management Committee Liverpool Radium Institute, Medical Faculty Liverpool University etc. He was, however, not a Committee man taking no real pleasure from increased time spent in such work. Following his military service his hearing became impaired and this also made committee work difficult.

Brewer served on the Council of the Liverpool Medical Institution but his great interest was in the Liverpool University Club which included all University Departments and which was situated in the City. This club

had been founded in 1884 with the foundation of the university itself and had grown and developed as the university increased in size. He played a very active part in the Club's activities and it was here that his ability as a speaker became fully developed. He was made president of the Club in 1968. He was also a member of the Athenaeum Club serving on many of their committees, having a very special interest in the library. As a member of the library committee he was largely instrumental in helping this club to financial stability in the sale of books from the library, always a most difficult decision for any club to make. His surgical interest centred on 'busts and bottoms', breast surgery and rectal work being his forte. He was one of the first to do adrenalectomies in the treatment of advanced malignancy and he developed a breast clinic at the Royal. His interest in breast work was responsible for his becoming a Fellow of the International College of Surgeons as he was particularly interested in the many continental surgical breast clinics.

Clifford's interests other than surgical were most diverse. He had a lifelong interest in all matters horological and he collected a very extensive collection of antique clocks. He wrote a Country Life publication of "The Country Life Collector's Pocket Book of Clocks". He contributed to many of the journals on clocks and watches and was a foundation member of the Antiquarian Horological Society. Conservation of the antique led him to become the area representative for the National Art Collectors Fund in Merseyside. He greatly enlarged the work of the fund locally. He served for many years on the Fine Art Committee of the University and played a part in the establishment of the University collection in Abercrombie Square. He always felt that a university students' education should be as broad as possible and should not be restricted to his one particular discipline. He was a keen fly fisherman and wrote several articles on fishing in "The Field" magazine. This interest, particularly fly tying, became an absorbing interest after he retired to his residence near Winchester. He was a member of the Furniture Society, a member of the Liverpool Medic-literary Society known as the XX Club of which he became President. He was foundation President of the Liverpool Literary Society and a member of the Liverpool Antiquarian Society. He was a collector of old Liverpool pottery and he wrote articles on Herculaneum pottery in "The Connoisseur" magazine. He presented specimens of this pottery to the University collection. He had an extensive collection of antique silver and old Sheffield Plate, of which, two very fine pieces from his collection grace the University collection. More recently he wrote the "The Death of Kings", a medical history speculating on the possible cause of death of kings from William 1st to Victoria.

Clifford married Marjorie Hirst whom he met while reducing a compound fracture of the femur in an operating theatre in Normandy. They had five children. Possibly his greatest achievement, despite the above, was (in his own estimation) to land a 13lb rainbow trout in Hampshire.

Mr Bill Brewer (son)