

## WESSEX

It was probably not fortuitous that Wessex, a romantic and historic name, was chosen at the beginning of the century for the new branch in an area, a great part of which Thomas Hardy invested with a certain immortality. S. J. Stevens, a branch president, practised for many years beside Hardy's statue in Dorchester, and one of the two eminent Prideaux brothers, who also practised in the town, was a former member of the branch. Stevens had served as a dresser in the 1914-1918 war under the great William Guy in his maxillo-facial unit. Beyond the boundaries of Hardy's Dorset, the branch includes the historic towns of Salisbury, Southampton, Winchester (capital of Anglo-Saxon Wessex), and Bournemouth, a thriving newcomer.

The branch was formed in 1902, 22 years after the birth of the Association, and early enough to grow with it and become inseparable from its hundred years of vigorous progress. Only three years later the Bournemouth and District Section was inaugurated. The Southampton and District Section is first mentioned in 1910.

Though the branch has never been large compared with others, some of its members have much influenced the advancement of the profession. Its first president, T. Wilson Hogue, practised in Bournemouth where, many years later, he was succeeded by F. W. Broderick, distinguished throughout the country and abroad for his original investigations and writings. It was because of Broderick's outstanding work on caries, periodontal disease and blood colloids that he was appointed dental physician to the Royal Victoria and West Hants Hospital, probably the first appointment of its kind and certainly unique in its purpose and character.

From its inception the Wessex Branch, for some time comprising only 51 members, held regular and well-attended meetings.

As early as 1904, H. G. Morris read a paper, *Dental Reform without Legislation*, which unhappily has not greatly influenced more recent reformers.

The Bournemouth Dental Clinic, which was created and staffed by local practitioners before the 1914-1918 War, provided dentistry at reduced fees for the needy, and in 1926 was the nucleus of the dental department later established at the Royal Victoria and West Hants Hospital. At the outbreak of war the staff, all branch members, offered free treatment to intending recruits to the armed forces. The branch may also

claim to have originated, or at least stimulated, the formation of the Army Dental Corps, for in 1915 it proposed and pressed for the creation of such a body.

Interesting was the annual meeting of the Association held in Bournemouth in 1920 because the president for that year was A. E. Ball, an unqualified but highly ethical and respected practitioner in the town. The election of Ball may well have been the first sign of that broad-mindedness which subsequently inspired the branch to seek the admission of 1921 dentists to the Association. When this was first proposed by a branch representative at a Representative Board meeting at Russell Square, the chairman of the Board requested the member to withdraw so unacceptable a resolution with apologies. Two further annual meetings were held in Bournemouth in 1947 and 1969, the presidents being respectively Edward Samson and R. H. Chapman.

In 1937 A. M. Kempe was nominated president-elect for the first of these meetings which was to be held in 1940. The war intervened and due to ill-health he regrettably resigned the office. The 1947 meeting was most successful considering it was only the second after the war and the fact that experienced help from headquarters was not as now available. It was at that time, 44 years after its inception, that the branch belatedly decided to have a presidential badge. A year earlier W. F. Cooper retired as branch treasurer, having served the phenomenal time of 30 years. The Wessex Branch has sometimes included men of quality out of all proportion to its numerical strength, such as, for example, Professor H. H. Stones later of Liverpool, A. Livingston of King's College Hospital Dental School and E. J. Dalling of the Plastic and Oral Surgery Unit, Salisbury.

The branch has always vigorously shared the problems of the profession and not infrequently anticipated their solution far ahead of general acceptance, such as by repeated and early requests for the admission of all registered dentists to membership of the Association. It also shared some of the profession's ever-recurring discontents. As far back as 1929 it passed a resolution 'that the present scale of fees is inadequate,' thus anticipating an opinion repeatedly voiced ever since. In 1903, within a year of the branch's formation, T. Barton-Steele read a paper, *The First Permanent Molar*, and in 1936 Alvin Mahony, dental officer of the then Ministry of Health, gave a paper, *Some Problems*

of Insurance Dentistry. Forty years later these problems are still the subject of discussion.

R. G. TORRENS  
EDWARD SAMSON

#### Presidents

1903	D. Wilson-Hogue	1946	D. H. Oliver
1905	J. Moore	1947	J. W. Kingston
1906	J. Laws	1948	J. T. S. Hutchins
1907	G. O. Richards	1949	G. S. Dingley
1908	A. E. Ball	1950	J. D. Robson
1909	L. M. Balding	1951	R. G. Torrens
1910	E. D. Bascombe	1952	S. J. Stevens
1911	C. Foran	1953	W. Murray Fisher
1912	C. H. Oram	1954	A. J. D. Gibbings
1913	T. Barton-Steele	1955	Major-General A. B. Austin
1914	W. de Courcy Prideaux	1956	M. Rudge Preston
1917	A. M. Kempe	1957	C. A. Blanden
1919	E. Wright	1958	R. H. Chapman
1921	F. W. Broderick	1959	J. D. Hooper
1922	A. E. Leech	1960	E. H. Fielder
1923	R. Umney	1961	P. J. Pretty
1924	E. D. R. Jacob	1962	R. A. Beck
1925	J. W. Graham	1963	S. E. Charman
1926	E. E. Solomon	1964	C. Wishart
1927	H. H. Stones	1965	K. M. Dorning
1928	H. V. Vogt	1966	A. K. Parsonage
1929	H. G. Balls	1967	W. White
1930	E. Victor Jones	1968	A. H. Chivers
1931	E. Samson	1969	F. M. Wood
1932	S. R. Reynolds	1970	G. N. Murray Fisher
1933	W. A. Crane	1971	E. A. Woodger
1934	A. F. Salsbury	1972	A. J. Edwards
1935	G. W. Gathergood	1973	P. A. W. Browne
1936	A. C. Kempe	1974	Lieutenant-Colonel R. Edwards
1937	H. O. B. James	1975	A. W. Hilliam
1938	H. Ridges Rowe		

#### Secretaries

1903	E. D. Bascombe	1927	A. C. Kempe
1906	A. M. Kempe	1932	H. S. Gare
1912	A. H. Saunders	1933	J. W. Kingston
1917	C. H. Oram	1947	A. J. D. Gibbings
1919	F. W. Broderick	1953	K. M. Dorning
	A. M. Kempe	1958	F. M. Wood
1922	W. A. Crane	1966	H. F. Pascall-Murray
1924	E. Samson	1972	J. F. Sullivan

#### Treasurers

1903	L. F. Morris	1958	E. A. Woodger
	John Laws	1964	A. H. Chivers
1912	W. J. O. Dawson	1968	L. J. Sterling
1933	W. F. Cooper	1973	D. J. Cheetham
1946	A. M. Kempe	1975	K. R. Griffiths
1949	M. R. Preston		

**Presidents (cont.)**

1943	H. T. Roper-Hall	1960	P. E. Jennens
1944	A. Bernstein	1961	B. O. M. Norris
1945	W. R. Cleverley	1962	Peggie D. Cartwright
1946	W. G. Coventry	1963	B. Douglas
1947	G. H. Teall	1964	R. A. Cohen
1948	G. Miller Yardley	1965	S. Dayrell Vincent
1949	N. Haines	1966	G. R. Miller Yardley
1950	S. P. Meacock	1967	R. F. Pusey
1951	R. C. Hunter	1968	R. C. Robinson
1952	A. F. Stammers	1969	E. H. Gee
1953	R. O. Walker	1970	A. Dace
1954	G. H. Bennett Edwards	1971	D. T. Barker
1955	N. W. A. Holland	1972	G. R. McColm
1956	W. J. Bate	1973	H. J. Liggins
1957	C. Lyth Hudson	1974	D. A. Gurnham
1958	Professor J. Osborne	1975	I. Simpson
1959	C. G. Boothroyd		

**Secretaries**

1884	W. H. Breward Neale	1926	A. Britten
1884	F. E. Huxley	1929	C. W. Nicholas
1885	W. H. Breward Neale	1940	G. H. Teall
1886	J. Humphreys	1947	N. Haines
1889	W. Palethorpe	1949	R. O. Walker
1892	A. E. Donagan	1952	W. J. Bate
1896	A. T. Hilder	1954	J. L. Hutton
1899	G. F. Cale-Matthews	1956	B. O. M. Norris
1906	A. W. Wellings	1960	R. C. Robinson
1911	C. W. Randall	1964	D. J. F. Stammers
1912	H. P. Joscelyne	1968	D. A. Gurnham
1919	R. W. Clayton-Cooper	1970	H. B. Carrington
1922	S. H. Roe	1974	G. H. Hinckley

**Treasurers**

1884	J. Humphreys	1946	C. W. Nicholas
1886	F. E. Huxley	1949	W. J. Bate
1892	W. Palethorpe	1952	G. H. Teall
1893	J. Mountford	1956	G. H. Bennett Edwards
1900	W. Malcolm Knott	1960	B. Douglas
1913	C. H. Howkins	1962	C. G. Boothroyd
1914	W. Malcolm Knott	1964	R. C. Robinson
1927	S. H. Roe	1966	J. C. Bentley
1939	S. P. Meacock	1972	E. H. Gee

**SOUTHERN COUNTIES**

'The formation of a Southern Counties Branch of the Association is surely a sign of advance in our calling upon professional lines.'

Thus began a letter written by the first president of the Association, (Sir) John Tones, and read at a meeting of Association members who had assembled at Brighton on 12th May 1886 for the purpose of establishing a new branch. The meeting, presided over by J. Smith Turner, was attended by about 20 members from Hampshire, Kent, Surrey and Sussex and the formal resolution creating a new branch was carried unanimously. The first officers elected were S. Lee Rymer, president, W. R. Wood, vice-president, J. H. Redman, treasurer and J. Dennant, secretary.

Amongst the highlights in the history of any branch will always be the years spent in preparation for the holding of an Association annual meeting at which one of its members is to be installed as president. The first such occasion took place in Brighton in 1889 when S. Lee Rymer became president. In 1903, again in Brighton, Walter Harrison became president, while in 1926 G. H. Aylen was installed president in Southsea. In 1939 the president of the Association died after a few weeks in office and on the outbreak of the war, under the Articles of the Association, the War Council came into being and took over the entire management of the Association. The Council invited Walter R. Wood to take over the vacant office of president; this he did until 1941 when at a meeting in Reading he installed J. B. Parfitt who remained president until the first post-war annual meeting in Edinburgh in 1946, and thus the branch provided the president of the Association for the entire war period. In 1956 at a meeting in Brighton, R. J. Hooker was installed as president and in 1968, also in Brighton, L. E. Balding became president.

The original boundary followed county boundaries and embraced Surrey, Kent, Sussex, Hampshire, Berkshire and Wiltshire. In 1902, as a result of the report of a headquarters committee set up to enquire into a scheme for the redistribution of branches, the branch council approved the suggested formation of a new branch consisting of Wiltshire, Dorset and part of Hampshire and Berkshire. Hence in 1902 the Wessex Branch came into being. In the next year a new branch rule was agreed 'that any number of members of the branch, the number not being less than eight, may form themselves into a District Section within the area of the branch for the better carrying out of its objects.'