

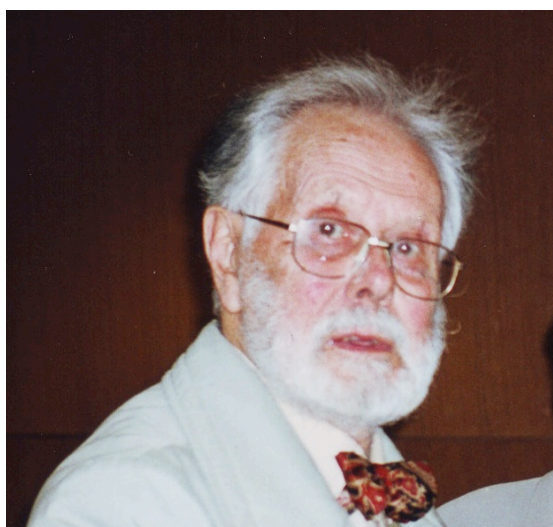
ALBERT EDWIN WILLIAM (LOMA) MILES (1912-2008)

W A Barry Brown

Introduction

A E W Miles (known to his friends as Loma because he was the only one in his histopathology class to correctly diagnose a malignant myeloma) joined the prosthetics department of the London Hospital Medical School in 1940, but he also had an interest in oral pathology and parodontology. He had previously worked with [later Sir] Wilfred Fish at the Royal Dental Hospital of London, where the latter's research efforts had strongly influenced him. In 1945 Miles (Fig 1) was appointed as a research worker; and five years later professor of dental pathology. He was the only dental professor at the London until joined by Geoffrey Slack in 1959. Miles retired in 1976 to become an emeritus professor.

Figure 1 Professor Miles, April 2003



After retirement he corresponded with me on a variety of topics. I had first met Miles when he came to examine James Scott's anatomy students at Queen's University in Belfast in the 'sixties. In 2003 he suggested I write what I could remember about the charismatic Scott, which I did. It was added to a website¹ organised by his son, Michael, to which Miles also contributed his memory of Scott. From then on Miles wrote to me a series of letters from his home in Cleaver Square, Kennington in South East London, which recorded his experiences and the people he had known in the dental profession. On 4 January 2004 he wrote:

Several people have urged me since I entered the ranks of the ancients to place on record my recollections of the seminal changes that occurred in dental education during my lifetime, brought to a peak in the post-WWII years. They extend from 'hearsay' about such figures as Mummery that I heard from Sprawson, who was of the generation immediately after Mummery, and some of the

giants of the past and more importantly first hand experiences of his own contemporaries, Sir Norman Bennett, Colyer, Lady Mellanby, E W Fish and Bradlaw, all of whom I overlapped with also.

The following paper is an extract from his letter to me written on 27 May 2003.

Miles had a habit of using many abbreviations and capital letters in his correspondence and for the sake of clarity and conformity here the full words and lower case are normally used.

The letter

Dear Barry

I suppose most boys and girls who come into dentistry do so because their fathers were. To that extent our backgrounds were similar but it is interesting that whereas your childhood was just before or early in World War II, but you had an experience of WWI and its special horrors through your mother.

I was born in 1912 and was 2 years old at the outbreak of those horrors but hardly sentient. However, I do recall events that almost certainly are pre-school, for instance of sitting on the floor in a screaming paddy because my mother would not let me play with the seeds or the "mess" she had just scraped out of a marrow; also some overwhelming sadness in my parents that I have always thought was hearing of the death of my father's youngest brother, aged 17/18, on the Somme in 1916; a little later, almost certainly 1917 when the losses from torpedoing were at a critical level, my aunt (father's younger sister) whose husband was a regular Scots Guardsman, sometimes corporal depending how he

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¹ www.computing.dcu.ie/~mike/jhs.html

had been behaving, been through the Boer War, captured at one of the first battles with the Germans in 1914 at Mons. She was living with us (no children). She came home at the end of one morning unable to contain her anxiety and distress; she had queued all morning for rations and got virtually nothing. My sister was three years older than me but I remember she was there when in the middle of the night my father held me in his arms to see the 'Potters Bar Zeppelin' caught in searchlights and shells bursting all round it and the breaking up and falling in flames. My father took me out in the morning to see crowds in the street looking for shrapnel and other souvenirs; I remember men digging shrapnel out of the woodblocks of the road with penknives.

My father was a dentist, of 1921.² Eldest son of eight of a working class family in Pimlico (my mother from a watchmaker/craftsman family in Clerkenwell); grandfather a big man, a City policeman who told us children stories of the villains, who tended to grab you by the collar of the capes they wore, became the devoted and beloved verger at Trinity Church, Chelsea, not far from Sloane Square, a place of fashionable weddings he deferentially attended and boasted of. He was about 93 when he died and my father about 95. Peabody Buildings, Pimlico³ was not far away, I remember both the outside and the cramped insides well, the neat black leaded iron stoves but more I remember my dear kind gentle grannie like a miniature Queen Victoria; seemed specially fond of her eldest grandson; I can hear the echo of her, "Have a hegg⁴ child" for tea when I visited her as a schoolboy. Christened Albert like my father probably after Prince Albert, I can remember as a tiny being called the little prince and such and it is a curious example of what can go on in the child mind, that it worried me to think I was related to the Royal Princes and my mother was not truly mine.

At some time my father must have served his 7-year apprenticeship with a firm in the City and been part of one where he learned chairside skills; I never enquired into this but just accepted that we had become middle-class and my father could afford to send both my sister and me to roughly equivalent schools (I can now appreciate that he was a liberal of his time as well as a Liberal and ardent supporter of Lloyd George). My sister went to the Hornsey High School for Girls at the bottom of a hill, in the Hornsey Village, and I went to the Stationers Company School at the top categorized we were told as a Day Public School but we could not detect any similarity to Billy Bunter's Greyfriars. Looking back I think it must have been a good school and gave me a good knowledge of French and a couple of years of grounding in German (I chose instead of Latin) and I can remember being taught the principle of chemical equations and linkages of molecular structure. However, I was always inclined to be rebellious and anti-learning or anti-establishment, yet I read avidly books I got every Saturday from the Public Library even to making notes on what information I gathered e.g. sailing ships. When I was 16 I began to feel I was drifting and had to think of earning a living. Past the stage when I wanted to go in the Navy, Royal or Merchant, I went through a period of deciding to become a teacher of handicrafts or woodwork (we had good classes at school). I was good with my hands, making and mending things and won second prize in a national fretwork competition when about 13. Gradually this changed and the idea of becoming a doctor, the status and helping people appealing to me, but could I pass the exams? Could my father meet the expense? I had no means of learning about scholarships; my father learned about Dental Board grants so I began to accept dentistry as a substitute but first had to get the entrance qualifications. Someone told me of cram classes at Regent Street Polytechnic. I left school in July and started at classes for matriculation at the Poly in September, English, English Literature, Mathematics and, I think, French. For a year I did nothing but study; all the classes were efficient and inspiring, those in English subjects especially those of an elderly, genial man who loved literature and inspired us all. We were of various ages and backgrounds with some foreigners, about 30 of us. Set books were Macbeth, Lamb's Essays, the essayists generally Hazlitt etc. and Wordsworth and other poets of the period. It was really a taste of being taught those subjects in a small-class University context. I continued that reading for interest and enjoyment throughout my student life and ever since. I matriculated in the distinction category and was also recorded as the top of our class; what a morale booster at a critical time.

We got a Dental Board grant and I started at the Royal Dental Hospital in Leicester Square, in January I think. There were two entries in the year in those days. As far as I can remember, there was a premedical course, chemistry, physics and biology. I remember dissecting a worm and doing drawings of sections. Then it was up in the mechanics laboratory: swaging and making lead dies etc all of which I enjoyed and was good at. I greatly enjoyed the metallurgy lectures and read avidly books on alloys and such and won the class prize, which must have given me a taste for praise because I came away with the reputation of a Prizeman. I began to realize I had a useful brain as well as a pair of hands. By the way, matriculation was only required for degree courses, all I needed for the LDS or the LRCP MRCS

² ie was registered with the Dental Board of the United Kingdom although unqualified, when registration became compulsory in 1921.

³ The Peabody Trust was founded in 1862 as the Peabody Donation Fund by an American banker, diplomat and philanthropist, George Peabody. He aimed to tackle the poverty he saw in London where he then lived. Two years later the first Peabody estate was opened, in Spitalfields. From then other estates grew up to house poor people. It was incorporated in 1948 by a private Act of Parliament and is now a charity registered with the Charity Commissioners.

⁴ I guess by 'hegg' she meant egg.

later was College of Preceptors or similar. Nobody at RDH pointed out that I could do the BDS but then the first BDS, the son of a member of staff, was at that time qualifying. Later when I was at Charing Cross, the only medicals doing a degree were those from Cambridge University - the elite.

I was enormously impressed by Eric Wilfred [later Sir Wilfred] Fish first by his application of anatomy and physics to full denture design; a system with principles to follow instead of a patchwork of empiricisms. Later by his ideas about aetiology and treatment of periodontal disease. In my last year and as a House Surgeon and later when in the following year Fish gave me a couple of sessions a week to look after his Parodontal Clinic he had just started, I became *persona grata* in his research labs, got to know his technician and saw histological techniques at close quarters.

I have always been interested in people as 'specimens' and had observed the Consultants and teachers in detail and concluded there was no reason if I tried hard enough why I could not become one of them but it was necessary to become medically qualified. Fish had in fact been a pioneer in what we now know as PhD studying under the guidance of an already experienced researcher. His first research was done for an MD under a physiologist, but few people realised that. I felt a desire to do the whole medical course anyway because I felt incomplete; I had experienced some of it, but not pathology, in depth nor midwifery or surgery proper; I still felt I might leave dentistry. Several of the younger teachers encouraged me, so relying on a part-time practice and my father's back up, I took the plunge and, being accepted by King's College, for the LRCP course, a story in itself, I started a year of intense work doing anatomy and physiology. I passed the exam with little margin and by October got into the wards wearing a stethoscope.

It is worth mentioning that the period I spent as a medical student was one of distinctly left politics among the young and sympathy or more extreme for Russia, which we regarded as the potential saviour of the West against the Nazis. There was even talk of communist cells among medical students; I experienced an urge to try to go with the International Brigade to Spain. Clifford Ballard⁵ and I were friendly, he was a tiny bit senior to me; we talked about these things feeling war was inevitable and the years ahead gloomy; no future to bring up a family in. He had a girl friend and they expected to marry as soon as he qualified. This was the time the Cambridge spy group, with Blunt and Maclean, was formed; the ideas they embraced of a loyalty to mankind superior to national patriotism were widely discussed below the surface. Much later, after we had dropped the atom bombs on Japan, similar views were abroad when the Americans refused to share the nuclear knowledge with the Russians; it was inevitable that they feared ultimate attack by USA and mounted protective defences whereas there had been a chance of everlasting peace. I was inclined that way myself and felt it was a chance that should have been bravely taken with all the risks it entailed. This is why Fuchs is said to have preserved a sublime sense of righteousness even when most of the world regarded him as a filthy traitor.

I qualified in medicine in June 1939, did a short locum house job at Charing X, married at the beginning of August and returned to London just as war broke out, much in debt to my father. F St John Steadman, one of my contemporaries at RDH/Charing X, rang me up and said "Off to the war" would I do some consultant sessions at Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children at Hackney. It turned out they were paid for by the London County Council. There were later some as anaesthetist for which I was paid more. I also did associated School inspections and later a locumship for a dental practitioner in Hampstead who was smitten with phthisis. I scraped a living together. I suffered a reaction following my efforts to get qualified and was in a psychological mess, a nervous breakdown of which indecision whether to join the Royal Army Medical Corps or not, confused by much talk that the war will all be over by the spring. Things were so dead on the Western Front.

Early in the New Year I must have noticed the advert for the demonstratorship at London Hospital Dental School in preparation for the students (dental) being brought back from Cambridge and places in Essex where they had been evacuated and thought I would apply. It was in Prosthetics and with my interest in Fish revived, I felt enthusiastic about teaching it to students. I was interviewed with some enthusiasm by A G Allen and Evelyn Sprawson when they found I was a prizeman from RDH where they both came from.

I think I was only half-time so retained all my "earnings". As students gradually returned from Cambridge and places in Essex where they had been evacuated, there was plenty to do; my Conservation (work) opposite Bill Peebles who was a very experienced man with whom I got on well with, as long as I recognised I had much to learn from him; he was also half-time, employed by a special Dental Board grant, the other half had gone to the war. The war in earnest and bombing of London soon started, a Dental Consultant went into the Navy, and dental clinics had to be re-opened, [later Sir Evelyn] Sprawson stayed at home a lot, it was said that his wife was ill; I began to run some classes in general pathology with a microscope and slides in response to an appeal by students, signing up cavities at intervals. I spent as much time as I could in the medical college meeting the preclinical staff among whom was Alex Comfort in Biochemistry and Physiology. Dixon Boyd had some interesting people in Anatomy but it must have been 1944 before Angus Bellairs came back from the Army in North Africa and Italy more full of stories of the lizards and snakes he had caught than of his war experiences. We started some work together as he developed his PhD work and we became life-long friends.

I was granted the other half of the Dental Board grant which gave me a useful rise; as patients increased and clinics had to be run, I was dealing with fractures, helping in the gas-room, sometimes giving the gas when the shortage

⁵ Later professor of orthodontics at the Eastman Dental Hospital.

of anaesthetists became serious. Hard work but immense fun and learning all the time. Pausing for a moment, what I have written seems narcissistic and self-indulgent and out of proportion but now it is down on paper, I will leave it there.

[Max] Horsnell came back from the RAF and ran the Children's Department. It must have been now that Brian Cooke and John Pedlar returned but first I must mention that Clark-Kennedy, the wily old Dean of the Medical College, saw me one day after I had been made a dental Consultant which I did not want and had been given Sprawson's lectures in dental anatomy and pathology to do plus a session for "research and preparation of lectures", and some assistance from a technician in the Histology Department. A G Allen was the Dental Dean. Clark-Kennedy said it is felt to be wise to appoint Horsnell or you as an Assistant Dean to Allen to give you the opportunity to instill new ideas; we favour appointing Horsnell - you don't want to do it do you? I said no it is not the job I would like to do and do not feel I could do it well. I'm glad you said that; your job is to get research on its feet in the school. This was music to me and many years later when I was under pressure by [Geoffrey] Slack to become Dean, rumoured to be because he did not want to become the first Dean after the new school opened that he had done most to plan, lest faults became plain - bits were already beginning to fall off! I quoted the remark of Clark-Kennedy to help me escape; I said I still felt that encouraging and facilitating research attitudes was my most useful function. I should have mentioned that when Clark-Kennedy said it is felt to be wise, he had the backing of the Dental Education Committee he presided over and on which also sat Prof Dixon Boyd and the Professors of Physiology and Biochemistry who I could rely on even against possible hostility of the dental consultants who made up the bulk.

Brian⁶ and John Pedlar spent the war in the Army Dental Corps and not the RAMC I guess; I do not recall them showing signs of having practised medicine. They must both have been made Registrars. I had a room in the Medical College and we all three had time to meet there frequently and talk about all sorts. I was not much older but they came to learn as much as they could from my experience of academia and what was happening in dental education; I had a foot on the ladder where it was their aspiration to get also. It was helpful for me to talk to some of my contemporaries. All three of us believed teaching had to be in the hands of full timers; I was able to explain what I had heard [later Sir Robert] Bradlaw had pioneered at Newcastle. He was reputed to have bundled all the 'Honoraries' out traumatically and was running the school like a dictator on full timers he had found, perhaps later with the help of the Nuffield scheme and money. I thought the changes in London should be more gradual and carefully planned, after all many part-timers were talented and competent especially in what we could envisage becoming oral surgery - in London there was a great concentration of wealthy patients. We discussed teaching *versus* learning, should lectures end with a period for discussion, principles rather than rote learning; my line was to emphasize the importance of providing a sound scientific foundation in preclinical subjects and in pathology with the possibility of teaching pathology as a preclinical subject.

Brian was already strongly orientated to our Bernhard Baron Pathology Institute, presided over by the famous Hubert Maitland Turnbull, which he loved to refer to as The Temple of Truth but I doubt whether I convinced him of the importance of Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry. He was attractively ebullient, assertive but no depth of thought or argument. I regarded both of them, whatever their deficiencies, as of great potential in the face of the need for such in the years that were about to open up. I spent the next 20 years looking for talent and potential in an expanding world of dental research. I doubt whether I made any impact on Brian's thinking. I thought John had the better brain, seemed to have a penetrating enquiring mind and later when I was urging him to plan some research and get on with it, he displayed a sound planning mind. Trouble was he was too analytical; he could work out the number of animals needed for experiments, then he would come back and say "but then so and so might happen" and we would need to check that, so would need subsidiary experiments with so many animals, with several repeats of that and he would say, we must give up, it is beyond our resources, and then come back with an entirely different idea. Other people, like me, before that would say let's have a go and see. He never did anything worthwhile even after he left me, although I got him a Readership, and he took a Chair in Toronto where he ran a department of minor dental surgery very efficiently but never published a thing. His was a wasted brain but he had a happy marriage which I, like some dedicated researchers I met, did not put first. He did work very efficiently with me on writing a chapter on Hormonal Influences on Development and Growth for a large new textbook edited by the part-time Dean of Guys dental school, who must have been a friend of the publisher. I was also writing a chapter on Tooth Abnormality, which I sent to him and it went into proof where I found that ontogeny, which I used a few times had changed to odontology. The Dean confessed he did not know what ontogeny meant. The whole scheme fell apart before John and I finished our joint Chapter so the remaining quarter was unfinished and much wasted good work. The successful completion of it might have made all the difference to him.

Brian got himself into the Bernhard Baron Pathology Institute, with a Nuffield grant, but it was not to do a PhD.. He deeply immersed himself in the work of the Department, although the only research that saw the light of day was two papers on the prevalence of epulis in the population over many years, derived from Bernhard Baron Pathology Institute records and collections of sections complete with statistical analysis and a model of new-style research but, as far as I know, he never published any other original work even when he was with Rushton.

⁶ B E D Cooke, Founder-Dean of the University of Wales Dental School.

In July 1947, when I had had only a chance to publish a couple of papers, the School decided to advertise the Chair in Dental Pathology; I applied of course, another was Arthur Darling. I recall Bradlaw at the very formal University interview presided over by the majestic Principal.⁷ Bradlaw asked most of the questions and in a kindly way. Dixon Boyd who was also there told me I did well but they decided none of us was ready for a Chair but it had been agreed that I could be offered a Readership. This assured my future at the London as far as I could see. Darling was appointed to the Chair at Bristol less than a year later.

I was pleased when Brian went to work in Martin Rushton's department. There could be nowhere better. I had worked with Rushton a great deal and he had been very kind to me; I was handicapped by shyness of pathological proportions, and lack of confidence; first as his assistant scientific editor on the *British Dental Journal* when he was its Scientific Editor. This job was new in order to help prepare the journal for the scientific and other needs expected soon to develop in the new age to come. I was to keep the readers in touch with research that had been going on abroad so I had to prepare abstracts from foreign languages; I could do French, and German with a struggle, Rushton was more German-competent and did a few and I unearthed someone who could manage Italian; some I could manage from their English summaries. I also was expected to attend prize-givings and similar events at dental schools in London and write short pieces; gradually I graduated to reviewing some books.

A bit later, the Medical Research Council revived their pre-war Dental Committee, which dispensed grants and did its best otherwise to stimulate dental research. They appointed Rushton as Chairman and I was to be Secretary but only in association with one of the MRC staff who in fact ran everything. May Mellanby returned to it, Darling was on, and the head of the Dental branch of the Ministry of Health and Head of the Royal Army Dental Corps as well as an eminent epidemiologist, a bacteriologist and a distinguished obstetrician.

Dental caries was allocated to Darling to stimulate, epidemiology of dental disease to Mellanby, tooth development timing etc to me. My assignment included keeping an eye on Alwyn Gaunt, the only dental external worker on the MRC staff; he was working with Percy Butler at the Royal Holloway College, so that gave me an enjoyable attachment to him and the Collage and to Alwyn whose work on tooth development in mice was first-rate and involved reconstruction from serial sections, something I was learning from Angus Bellairs. At subsequent meetings, the obstetrician presented me some pots of early human foetuses, which obliged me to get sectioned at the London with the help of Ron Fearnhead.

I will squeeze in later my experiences serving on the Board of Studies in Dentistry of the University, eventually as its Secretary first under Professor W E Herbert, the first appointed teacher at Guy's,⁸ and then Rushton for perhaps a total of eight or more years, from which my assessment of Rushton largely derives.

Martin was a delightful man, humorous and kind, one of the first scions of a well-to-do family, product of Public School and Oxford I knew at close quarters. Always gracious and at ease (a veneer and inside full of uncertainties as I learned when I knew him better); happy to consider innovative ideas and might even lend some support but not one to rely upon to support or lead against gritty resistance. I knew plenty later, Angus for instance. For that, choose a working-class product.

I saw in Martin enormous potential, what I could do if I only had his! After a time he disappointed me because he never seemed to give more than 80% to anything, I had to give 120% just to keep up. Of course, I am not referring to the last years of his life when he was sadly waging a brave battle against carcinoma of the lung. He had always smoked, a pipe only while I knew him. I visited him several times when he was in the ward at Guy's and at his home in Sevenoaks during a period of apparent recovery.

When I became Reader, I joined the Board of Studies as only the fourth dental Appointed Teacher; the others were Sprawson, only for about a year before he retired which was one of his grouses, Herbert who was a Reader I think and then elevated to Professor at the end of the war, and Rushton as professor of Oral Medicine. Sprawson had been its Chairman for many years. The rest was a motley crew of 'recognized teacher' dental consultants plus a few professors of anatomy and of physiology. Herbert had just been elected in succession to Sprawson when I joined which created a sense of at last we can move forwards I believe. He soon contrived to appoint me his Secretary and I saw a lot of him; efficient but over-bureaucratic I thought. I believe the officers served for 3-4 years and when he went Rushton took over but I stayed as Secretary, which is how I came to work so closely with him for so long. During those 8 years or so, lots of things happened and were planned. University-invited Lectures came in and we several times took advantage of inviting people of distinction from abroad who we learned were coming here for other reasons, Gösta Gustafson and P O Pedersen for example: both Scandinavians and enamel researchers. I remember an Australian oral surgeon who submitted a title for his with the words "roots and alveoli". John Zachary Young, who had joined the Board, or someone similar slyly asked, "Is this a botanical paper and does it refer to lung alveoli?" I had an awful job to get the chap to accept the sort of title I suggested. "In Australia, we call a spade a bloody shovel". Nice chap when some of us met him at a small dinner the University provided at Senate House after the lecture. I attended most of those to give some sort of traditional background and information about the University of London, but was openly criticised at a meeting for hogging it and not spreading the privilege among the ordinary members. It was difficult to

⁷ Of the University of London.

⁸ As Reader in 1935.

get them to think up names to sponsor for the lectures.

I was right from the beginning put on the Board of Studies in Anatomy also, I suppose because I taught dental anatomy as well. I thus got to know 'JZ' and many other anatomists; eventually this bore good fruit because I managed to steer through one of their meetings a recommendation by our Board that the university examinations in the preclinical subjects of anatomy and physiology for dental students should be an Appointed Teacher member of the department, namely the Professor or his Reader, instead of saying to the most junior lecturer, "You do it this year". It was a subtle way of saying we wanted them to appoint special staff up to at least Readership level to teach the dentals. Taking advantage of planning a new school, we already had it agreed that strong preclinical appointments would be earmarked to provide teaching for the dentals with Appointed Teachers in anatomy and physiology and so in due course we had a Reader in Dental Physiology (unfortunate term) and Ron Fearnhead in Dental Anatomy. Unfortunately it turned out that Ron, who was notoriously an awkward person, was only housed by the Anatomy Department in the basement of an old house on the Whitechapel campus.

Soon after the Anatomy Board meeting 'JZ' telephoned me and said he understood and sympathized with what we wanted and was quite prepared to plan for a section of Dental Anatomy even under a chair but were people of the right potential available, "remember I expect people of top quality". I mentioned Ron Fearnhead and he said yes he knew of him; I then suggested Alan Boyde. Is he as good as Alan Ness I know in our Physiology Department? In fact had got FRS⁹ potential, seeming to imply that Ness had just that potential. I said that it was a bit early to judge Alan Boyde in those terms but I thought he had. I'll get him to come one day soon and give a lunchtime talk to us all. A week or two later, I heard that Alan had such an invitation; next I heard that he had returned despondent and had made a mess of it. Perhaps he judged wrongly and I heard no more and know nothing of any negotiations that may have gone on but about a year later the news was that Alan was off to University College London with a Readership.

When I eventually came to the end of my term as Secretary of the Board of Studies, they made me Chairman by the end of which the whole scene was barely recognisable. Even Bradlaw¹⁰ had appeared as a member by virtue of being Dean at the Eastman. Some of us were still striving for reforms, developing schemes which involved integration between preclinical and clinical teaching, but it was difficult to go beyond the advances that had been made in the MB and perhaps just as well. In any case each of the five schools had their local problems including geographic, and none could be forced to do what they did not want. One idea I was disappointed not to see was pathology (laboratory or principles) and bacteriology examined as a separate subject instead, as I think it remains, just some questions as part of final.

I once had the chance to thank 'JZ' for attending our Board of Studies so regularly; he said that when he was appointed to the Chair at UCL (a zoologist, much resented by traditional human morphologists) he decided to do everything he was expected to for 5 years, including all the committees. I just hope I have contributed something as well as learning a lot about the University. I said he did, his mere presence on the dental committee prevented discussion sinking into the abysmal, which amused him. I used to meet him at Angus Bellair's parties when he once complained to me of the lack of interest in his Department and Boyde of the dental school people, what's-his-name across the road. He meant of course Arthur Prophet, as good a Dean as any as far as I knew but was in too much awe of 'JZ' and all across the road from him. How sad it was impossible to convey to him that if he broke the ice, which all Deans ought be able to do, he could meet a friendly constructive reception.

I served as external examiner in oral biology at the Cardiff Dental School with David Whittaker and David Adams for four years but cannot remember if once a year or twice. On at least one occasion, Declan Anderson was there too because I returned to London with him. I suppose he was taking part in the preclinical exams in the Medical College, about 3 miles away. I had the impression that Whittaker was in charge but Brian's history shows that Adams was and that in due course Adams became Reader in 1976 and Whittaker likewise in 1983. They must have dropped the idea of a Chair. At the time I was examining both were doing interesting electron microscope work. Whittaker had not yet developed his forensic line. I knew the course was run during the clinical period, they explained to me that there had been heavy emphasis on salivary function but otherwise the main core was more or less conventional dental anatomy but with little comparative.

Best wishes,
Loma

⁹ Fellow of the Royal Society, the highest scientific recognition/

¹⁰ Robert Bradlaw probably did more than anyone else to promote and develop dentistry after the Second World War.