

## **A History of Dermatology in Liverpool**

The early medical history of Liverpool is unknown although it is likely that medical care was provided in the Middle Ages at least, by monks, nuns, and various charities. Almshouses and barns probably were used as hospitals. The earliest mention of a doctor in the Liverpool area is of Dormishe or Darbil Usher, "Physician", in 1560.

However, the first doctor of whom anything is known in detail is Silvester Richmond (1616-1692) who was not only a successful and well-regarded medical practitioner but became Mayor in 1672.

Several doctors soon came to practice in Liverpool as the town was now growing rapidly and some of these became connected to Richmond's family by marriage, and so he is regarded as the "father" of medicine in Liverpool. In these days of the "women's liberation" movements it is of interest that, even in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, Liverpool could boast of more than one lady skilled in the practice of medicine and surgery.

Against a background of increasing prosperity in the town the compassion of the well-to-do for the poor sick led to the proposal in 1744 for the building of a public infirmary in Liverpool. This was opened on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1749 by the 11<sup>th</sup> Earl of Derby: it had cost £2,618 and although designed to accommodate 100 patients, when it opened only 30 beds were ready for use. The medical staff consisted of three physicians and three surgeons.

The steady growth of the town gradually made the area of the hospital into a most undesirable neighbourhood. It had around it limekilns, potteries, and, worst of all, an extremely smelly burial ground. This led to the building, on another site, of a second infirmary, which was opened in September 1824, and cost £25,000. At the celebratory ball was a lady of 97 years of age who had been present at the opening of the first infirmary!

In 1851, on the occasion of Queen Victoria's visit to Liverpool, permission was granted for the hospital to be called Liverpool Royal Infirmary.

By 1882 the work of the infirmary had increased so much it was decided that a new, larger building was required, so, on the same site, but greatly enlarged, the third infirmary was erected. It was opened on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1890, cost £180,000, and had accommodation for 300 patients.

In 1834, a School of Medicine had been founded in Liverpool and, by 1892, it was felt that, owing to an increasing habit of specialisation and the requirements of clinical teaching, a laryngologist and a dermatologist should be appointed so, the following year, Hugh Leslie Roberts was elected to the latter post, the first to be appointed as such in the city. Such gaps in the training of medical students had been noted for many years. In 1870, the lecturers in the Medical School had deplored, amongst other things, the lack of systematic instruction in special subjects such as diseases of the skin, although, in fact, a hospital for Cancer and Diseases of the Skin had been founded in 1862 (at 17, Islington) by Richard Slipper. In 1863, James Smyth

and Ed. Allan, a surgeon, founded (in Grenville Street South) St. George's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin. The former hospital moved in 1882 to Myrtle Street and later became the Radium Institute, whilst the latter, in 1928, amalgamated with the Royal Southern Hospital.

In 1899, the Liverpool Skin Hospital opened near the Liverpool Royal Infirmary (at 49, Pembroke Place). It was financed by G.G.S. Stopford Taylor with the help of friends, and shortly after it opened, R.W. MacKenna was appointed, in 1901, as an assistant. A few years later, in 1904, the hospital moved up the street to larger premises (at 59 Pembroke Place). An out-patient department was built containing consulting and dressing rooms, a dispensary, laboratory and photographic studio. The house itself later contained a large actinic department on the ground floor where treatment with X-rays, ultra-violet lamps and mercury vapour lamps was given. On the second floor, seven in-patients could be accommodated. It was in this hospital that Salvarsan, as chemotherapy for syphilis, was first used in Liverpool, in 1910. (R.W. MacKenna had previously reported, in 1902, the first use of radiotherapy in the treatment of skin cancer, although even earlier, in 1901, Dr. Thurston Holland, a pioneer of radiology working in Liverpool, had reported the use of radiotherapy for the treatment of lupus vulgaris). When the hospital made its move in 1904, Walter Charles Orani staffed as an assistant, whilst Richard Stopford Taylor was appointed in 1912.

The Skin Hospital prospered, filling as it did a great need in the city: the weekly attendance averaged about 500 in 1912. However, the founder of the hospital died in 1918 and, owing to a lack of financial support, it closed in June 1919.

Meanwhile, the Royal Infirmary having introduced electric light into its wards in 1870, opened, in 1902, an electric department for the treatment of skin disorders under the aegis of Robert John Ewart.

In 1911, a new out-patient building was opened in the Infirmary consisting of a central hall, which could accommodate 200 people, surrounded by large and well-lit rooms for the treatment of, amongst others, skin patients. These rooms were still in use when the Liverpool Royal Infirmary closed in 1979.

Coinciding with the passing of the specialist skin hospitals, dermatologists began to be appointed to other hospitals in the city. Dr. Hugh Leslie Roberts had been in post at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary since 1893 because of the hospital's connection with the Liverpool Medical School (and he became sufficiently eminent to be honoured by being elected to the Presidency of the British Association of Dermatology for the period 1922-23. He was also an expert mycologist.)

In 1920, Dr. R.W. MacKenna, who had been on the staff of the David Lewis Northern Hospital since 1919, was appointed Honorary Dermatologist to the Liverpool Royal Infirmary and Lecturer in Dermatology at the University of Liverpool. Soon after, he was appointed Honorary Dermatologist to the Children's Convalescent Home at West Kirby. Dr. MacKenna presented many papers to the Liverpool Medical Institution, edited their journal for many years,

and developed a considerable talent as a writer of philosophical works and novels. He died in 1930 of a severe blood disorder said to be pernicious anemia.

Richard Stopford Taylor, who had succeeded R.W. MacKenna at the David Lewis Northern Hospital, followed him to the Royal Infirmary in 1926 and they worked together, housed in the basement, until Dr. MacKenna's death, when Stopford Taylor became Hon. Dermatologist to the Royal Infirmary, which position he occupied until his retirement in 1946. His publications were few, but his work was appreciated by his colleagues, and so, in 1942-3 he, too, had the honour of being elected to the Presidency of the British Association of Dermatology.

Stopford Taylor, who had distinguished himself in World War I (recognised by being Mentioned in Despatches and the award of a D.S.O.) was followed by Dr. Godfrey W. Bamber who gave distinguished service as an army dermatologist, especially in India, during the Second World War. Prior to the war, Bamber had been a consultant to several hospitals in and around London, and after the war, he returned to London and became a consultant to his own teaching hospital, University College, from where, in 1946, he moved to Liverpool, having been appointed to Liverpool Royal Infirmary and the Royal Southern Hospital. Although a somewhat shy person, he was an active member of the editorial staff of the British Journal of Dermatology, and, as well as being President of the North of England Society of Dermatology in 1949, later, in 1961, he became President of the British Association of Dermatology. He retired in 1963 and died on 29 March 1971.

At the Royal Southern Hospital, Bamber had succeeded Dr. R.M.B. MacKenna who was the son of R.W. MacKenna. The young MacKenna had wanted to be a naval officer, but after World War 1, he left the navy, became a medical student, and after graduation worked in venereology and dermatology at St. Thomas' Hospital, being also an assistant at St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin. In 1928, he returned to Liverpool to look after his ailing parents, becoming Medical Officer in charge of the male venereology department at the Stanley Hospital and also helping his father in private practice, continuing the latter after R.W. MacKenna died in 1930. In 1936, he resigned from the Stanley Hospital, (by then he was also Honorary Dermatologist) having been appointed Honorary Dermatologist to the Royal Southern Hospital. Whilst in Liverpool, he began his medical literary career, writing several standard dermatological texts which remained reference works for some years. He joined the R.A.M.C. on the outbreak of the Second World War, ending it with the local rank of brigadier, and having been Consultant in Dermatology to the Army. In 1945, on demobilisation, Dr. MacKenna returned to Liverpool to recommence his civilian consultant practice, but within a month, he was invited to apply to succeed Dr. A.C. Roxburgh at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and also at St. John's, to which posts he was appointed, and thereafter he had an exceptionally distinguished career in dermatology. He died on 12 November 1984.

There had long been plans to combine the four general hospitals in Liverpool (the Liverpool Royal Infirmary, the David Lewis Northern Hospital, the Royal

Southern Hospital and the Stanley Hospital and initially it was the specialised units that were going to unite, so, on the retirement of Dr. Bamber, Dr. Douglas G. Freshwater, who had been appointed in 1948 to the Northern and Stanley Hospitals, transferred his clinics to the Royal Infirmary where he became the senior consultant. He also was a consultant to Clatterbridge and St. Catherine's Hospitals on the Wirral.

Dr. Freshwater excelled at tennis when he was a young man becoming junior champion at Wimbledon in 1930, a Cambridge blue and a member of the pre-war British team. During the war, he was in the RAMC, serving in France and the Middle East and in 1946 had been a consultant dermatologist to the Nigerian colonial service. He was a very good clinician and became consultant dermatologist to Lever Bros., Shell Stanlow, Leyland Motors and Vauxhall Motors, as well as being President of the North of England Dermatological Society in 1960.

To succeed Dr. Bamber, Dr. Christopher F.H. Vickers was appointed and he also had sessions at Southport General Infirmary and Ormskirk and District General Hospital. Dr. Vickers was an expert in the field of atopic eczema and had carried out original work on the role of the stratum corneum as a reservoir for topically applied drugs, and following his arrival a programme of research was instituted, starting with the appointment of Dr. Thomas W. Stewart as a Senior Lecturer in Dermatopathology.

Over the next 25 years the department went from strength to strength. A systematic teaching programme for undergraduates and postgraduates was initiated, a biochemist, Dr. Dorothy Dean was appointed, a mycology service was put in place, and, in 1984, Dr. Clodagh M. King was appointed as a consultant dermatologist with a special interest in contact dermatitis. A hub-and-spoke arrangement of consultant appointments was begun as was a programme whereby all the regional consultants gathered at the Royal Infirmary on a Wednesday morning to present and discuss problem cases after which the histology sent in during the previous week was projected and an analysis of the cases took place—an early form of audit. Post-graduates researching for an M.Sc. or Ph.D. came to work in the University Department which thrived, and its success was recognised by the award of a personal chair to Dr. Vickers in 1982. He had already, in 1981, been President of the North of England Dermatological Society, as was Dr. Stewart in 1986.

It has been mentioned already that the four general hospitals in Liverpool had long intended to amalgamate but this process was accelerated by events. Lord Henry Cohen, a very eminent Liverpool physician, had put forward proposals for a new and enlarged teaching hospital to be built across the road from the Royal Infirmary and the Ministry of Health had accepted these in the early 1960s. There were very many problems along the way but eventually the Royal Liverpool Hospital opened on Prescott Street in 1979, which hastened the closure of several peripheral hospitals whose consultant dermatology staff were appointed to the Royal Liverpool Hospital which benefited greatly as a result.

Dr. J.L. Verbov, a Liverpool graduate trained at Guy's and Barts, came from

Sefton General Hospital, where he had been appointed in 1972, and he also attended Broadgreen General Hospital and the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital at Myrtle Street. A prolific speaker and writer and an editor of the British Journal of Dermatology, he made his mark in paediatric dermatology, being responsible for numerous initiatives in that field. He was deservedly awarded a personal chair in dermatology by Liverpool University in 1998, having been President of the North of England Dermatological Society in 1994.

When Dr. Freshwater retired in 1982, he was replaced at the Royal Liverpool Hospital by Dr. W.A.D. Griffiths, an authority on pityriasis rubra pilaris, who was also appointed to Walton Hospital, succeeding Dr. Netta Hay who had died in 1980. Although making a considerable contribution to the dermatology services in Liverpool, Dr. Griffiths felt that his future lay elsewhere and so he moved to London to join the staff of St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin and also St. Thomas' Hospital.

Dr. J.C (Netta) Hay had been a well-known figure in Liverpool dermatology. Of Welsh origin, she graduated at Liverpool and had intended to specialise in paediatrics although she did become a clinical assistant to Dr. Stopford Taylor at the Royal Infirmary.

In 1939, she was appointed Hon. Physician at the Royal Liverpool Babies Hospital, but, following the outbreak of war, she became a locum consultant in both paediatrics and dermatology, with sessions at 5 hospitals: the Royal Liverpool Children's, the Birkenhead and Wirral Children's, the Royal Southern, Whiston, and Wrexham Emergency Hospital in North Wales. At the end of the war she chose to specialise in dermatology, and with the inception of the N.H.S., she became a consultant dermatologist at 4 of the hospitals where she had worked during the war, the exception being the Royal Southern Hospital, but she was instead appointed to Walton Hospital. She worked at Whiston, Walton and the Maelor General Hospital, almost until she died in 1980.

At Whiston Hospital Dr. Hay was succeeded by Dr. Susan Evans, a Liverpool graduate who is an authority on the effects of arsenic on the skin, and she was later joined by Dr. Regina G. Curley, another Liverpool graduate who had later trained at King's College Hospital, London. More recently, two more consultants have been appointed at Whiston.

At Walton Hospital, Dr. Hay had been assisted by Dr. Sam Canter who was a Senior Hospital Medical Officer. He had been a G.P. but, during the war, whilst in the army, he had held clinics in V.D. and dermatology and later passed his M.D. In 1947 he obtained a dermatology post at Broadgreen General Hospital, which was then a voluntary hospital, and later went to Newsham General and Walton Hospitals. After Dr. Hay's death, he carried on at Walton until Dr. Griffiths' appointment whereupon he retired.

Following Dr. Griffiths' departure, Dr. D.G. Gunawardena, a graduate of Colombo University in Sri Lanka, who had left his home country because of the violence there, was appointed, and when he retired, there was an hiatus

until Walton's services were transferred to Aintree University Hospital where there are now two consultants.

Prior to 1930, general hospital services were provided to the public by workhouses and their associated Poor Law Infirmaries, and in and around Liverpool there were several such units e.g. Whiston, Walton, and Newsham General Hospitals, although these were not their original names. The Local Government Act of 1929 gave local authorities the power to provide hospitals so, in 1930, the functions of Poor Law Boards of Guardians were transferred to local councils - Lancashire County Council in the case of Whiston Hospital (This had originally been called the Preston Union Hospital, then the County Hospital, Whiston, and finally, with the inception of the N.H.S., the present name was given).

As the name changed so did the function and facilities provided by the hospital, but unfortunately the early records of Whiston Hospital have been destroyed so it appears that Dr. Hay was the first consultant dermatologist on the staff, being appointed in 1940.

Another Poor Law Infirmary ("Belmont Road Workhouse"), which was opened in 1865, also became a City Hospital in 1930 - Belmont Road Hospital. In the early 1900s, it seems that there was a scabies epidemic amongst the workhouse inmates, and those affected were isolated in a house at the lodge of the hospital where they were attended by Dr. McCormick Mitchell who subsequently became very interested in dermatology. Indeed, he is recorded as being a visiting consultant dermatologist at Alder Hey Children's Hospital in 1925, and he built up a large private practice in Rodney Street. He also founded the Liverpool Clinic in the early 1920s where he was assisted by a Dr. Jong, who, sadly, died after only a year or two in post, being replaced by Dr. F. Glyn Hughes, who was already working as an assistant to R.W. MacKenna at the Royal Infirmary.

Dr. Frederick Glyn Hughes qualified about 1922 and became a G.P. in West Derby, a Liverpool suburb where he acquired an interest in dermatology and then, as previously noted, became clinical assistant to R.W. MacKenna at the Royal Infirmary. After 6 years, he gave up his general practice and went full-time in 1928, assisting, at Belmont Road Hospital, McCormick Mitchell, who, however, died in 1930, at the same time as Liverpool Corporation was taking over the Poor Law Hospitals, so Glyn Hughes became the City Dermatologist at the Belmont Road Hospital, but he also used to visit Walton, Sefton General, Broadgreen General, and Mill Road, Hospitals. Dr. Eric Glynn, the son of the Professor of Pathology (1884 —1922), had also been taken on to help at Belmont Road Hospital (and the Liverpool Clinic) but he left in 1940 to go to work for Courtauld's Textiles.

In May 1941, Mill Road Hospital was bombed, so the skin clinics were transferred to Broadgreen, which at one time had been a sanatorium, and as a result, Dr. Cyril McGibbon, who later earned out sterling work as a dermatologist in Liverpool, was introduced to the specialty. He had graduated at Liverpool in 1937, and in 1938 became a general medicine resident at Mill Road, taking on, also, in 1939 the V.D. clinics. Following the bombing, with no

hospital to work in, Dr. McGibbon was sent by Mr. Montserrat, the Dean of Medicine, to help Glyn Hughes at Broadgreen, Belmont Road and Walton Hospitals, together with the Skin and Cancer Hospital. In 1945, Dr. McGibbon was invited by Dr. E. Baker Bates, a very well-known local physician, to do a weekly 6-hour clinic at the Providence Hospital in St. Helens, which was a voluntary hospital, and therefore clinics were unpaid.

In 1948, with the start of the N.H.S., Glyn Hughes and McGibbon were appointed as consultants at the newly-named Newsham General Hospital and the Radium Institute (previously the Skin and Cancer Hospital) and Dr. McGibbon continued at the Providence Hospital. Dr. Glyn Hughes, having been President of the North of England Dermatological Society in 1954, retired in 1961, being succeeded by Dr. M.D. Readett, a Birmingham graduate, who had been working since 1958 as Senior Registrar to the United Liverpool Hospitals and the Liverpool Region.

On appointment, Dr. Readett was at Newsham General, Broadgreen, Sefton General, and Alder Hey Hospitals and also the Radium Institute. In addition, he was a Lecturer in Dermatology on the University staff, but, after a few months, he gave up the lectureship and went into private practice at 45, Rodney Street, and later still, he took on a clinic at Bootle General Hospital. This seems to have been the only time when this peripheral hospital had a dermatology service and it disappeared anyway when the hospital closed.

In 1968, Dr. Readett resigned, having been offered a chair at the University of Western Ontario, which for personal reasons, he relinquished in 1970 and took a post in Hobart, Tasmania, at the then newly-founded Medical School, which he held until he retired.

Following Dr. Readett's resignation, Dr. McGibbon continued the clinics at Newsham single-handedly until 1977 when he retired, although he worked on as a locum on a half-time basis until 1982. Although he ceased his employment by the N.H.S. in that year, he continued in private practice, medico-legal work and at the Providence Hospital for another dozen years. He had been President of the North of England Dermatological Society in 1965.

When Dr. McGibbon left Newsham in 1977, he was succeeded by Dr. M.M. Molokhia, a graduate of the University of Alexandria, with a Ph.D. awarded by the University of Glasgow. He was an authority on the metabolism of trace metals in skin, and hyperhidrosis. He was also appointed to Halton General Hospital, Runcorn, and Warrington General Hospital. This latter post had come under the auspices of the Liverpool region in 1947, prior to which time the post had been in the Manchester region. Unfortunately, the dermatologist at Warrington became ill whereupon Dr. Glyn Hughes took over, with, as an assistant, Dr. J.G. Coburn who later became a consultant at the Manchester and Salford Skin Hospital.

In 1980, Dr. Susan Evans was appointed to Newsham (as well as to Whiston), and she and Dr. Molokhia worked there until the hospital closed, following which the dermatology clinics and beds were transferred to Broadgreen General Hospital. Dr. Evans was President of the North of England

Dermatological Society in 1998, and also President of the Liverpool Medical Institution in 1998.

At the Royal Liverpool Hospital, following the retirement of Professor Vickers in 1989, Dr. Peter S. Friedmann was appointed to the now established Chair of Dermatology in 1990. He is an expert on the immunological reactions to a variety of stresses on the skin so the thrust of the research carried out by the department obviously changed markedly. Dr. Stewart retired in 1991 and was replaced by Dr. John Ashworth, an N.H. S. consultant who continued the dermatopathology service, until he moved to a post in Stockport in 1996, and he was followed by Dr. Lesley Rhodes who became a noted expert on photobiology, but who later moved to Manchester. In addition, in 1992, Dr. Graham R. Sharpe, an authority on cutaneous inflammation, particularly urticaria and eczema, was appointed as a Senior Lecturer.

Professor Friedmann, who had been acting Head of the Department of Medicine for three years, resigned from his post in December 1997 to become the Professor of Dermatology at Southampton University. Although the Liverpool chair was advertised and three applicants interviewed, no appointment was made, and gradually the University Department of Dermatology went into abeyance. Dr. Sharpe became an N.H.S. consultant in November 1999 and then clinical director of the Directorate of Dermatology, the laboratory staff were subsumed into other departments, a new curriculum for medical students was introduced in which dermatology played very little part, and finally, in March 2006, the only remaining contact with the University, an office and a secretary, were removed.

In July 2003, the dermatology unit left its purpose-built department in the Royal Liverpool University Hospital and moved into another purpose-built facility in Broadgreen General Hospital, and by June 2006 there were 7.6 consultants together with 8 registrars working on a hub-and-spoke arrangement in the area.

Paediatric dermatology does not seem to have been provided for until the advent of Dr. McCormick Mitchell at Alder Hey in the 1920s. With care for the sick in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century being so hit-and miss and depending on wealth for the rich and voluntary assistance for the poor, it is remarkable that Liverpool was probably the first provincial city to provide a specialist children's hospital: in 1848 the Children's Infirmary opened on an out-patient basis in the city centre, moving to different sites as demand increased until a purpose-built hospital opened in 1869 in Myrtle Street; this was rebuilt between 1904 and 1907. In 1916, Myrtle Street launched an appeal for a country annexe which led, in 1920, to an amalgamation with the Royal Liverpool County Hospital for Children which was situated in Heswall, on the Wirral. This hospital had begun as a wing of the Children's Convalescent Home in West Kirby in 1899. Two young Liverpool doctors were dissatisfied with the hospital provision for the care of children with chronic diseases e.g. bony tuberculosis, who, they felt, could recover with proper care. A purpose-built hospital opened in February 1909 with 200 beds and it was this unit which was absorbed by Myrtle Street.

The hospital gradually developed specialised paediatric services, including dermatology, and Dr. Hay appears to have been the first consultant

dermatologist on the staff: following her retirement, Dr. Verbov was appointed and he transferred to Alder Hey when Myrtle Street closed as a result of the concentration of all paediatric services in Liverpool on the Alder Hey site.

Alder Hey was a mansion set in 25 acres in a Liverpool suburb and was purchased with the intention of building a pauper's hospital with a wing for the children of the paupers, but because of the outbreak of World War 1 it was used primarily for military purposes, especially orthopaedic services; however, the Poor Law Guardians insisted that the children's wing should be used for its original purpose. After the war it was recognised that there was a need for a specialist children's hospital, especially for orthopaedics and infections. By 1925 the staff included a Medical Superintendent, 3 Resident Medical Officers and 4 visiting consultants, one of whom was a dermatologist, the aforementioned Dr. McCormick Mitchell.

Alder Hey gradually evolved, especially during and after World War 2, with the addition of laboratories, wards and specialist services, especially as applied to children, and dermatology was, and is, well- provided for. Dr. Readett seems to have been the first dermatologist on the staff and he was followed by Dr. (later Professor) Vickers, who was joined by Dr. (later Professor) Verbov. When they retired, Dr. Sharpe, and later, Dr. Richard Parslew, took over.

Although, latterly, clinical assistants have not been mentioned, this is because their clinical role has changed: they were usually general practitioners appointed on a short-term basis (1 year) in order to try and improve the standard of dermatology in primary care. When Dr. Verbov transferred from Sefton General Hospital to the Royal Liverpool Hospital he brought with him a dermatologically well-experienced clinical assistant (and G.P.), Dr. Ronnie Steinberg, who became the first, and only, clinical assistant on the staff of the R.L.H. Another notable clinical assistant, who was never a G.P., but has devoted her entire clinical career to dermatology is Dr. Sue Jackson, now an associate specialist and a national figure in the associate specialist organisation.

Dermatology as a specialty in Southport began with the arrival of Dr. Henry Bardsley. Born in 1878, a native of Eccles, Lancs., he became a medical student in Liverpool in 1908 and was a house surgeon at Liverpool Royal Infirmary, after which, in the same year, 1908, he took over a general practice at 37, Church Street, Southport where he worked until the outbreak of the first World War, during which he served in the R.A.M.C. as Medical Officer-in-Charge, Officer's V.D. Hospital, 2<sup>nd</sup> Western General Hospital, and Medical Officer, 51<sup>st</sup> General Hospital, B.E.F., France. At the end of the War he was in charge of a hospital for Officers (V.D.) at Birtles Hall, near Macclesfield where he stayed until he was demobilized in 1919. Following this event, he set up a dermatology and venereology consulting practice in Manchester, Southport and Wigan but he did not have his rooms in Manchester for very long. In 1922, he was appointed to the Honorary Medical Staff of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary at Wigan, and soon afterwards became Honorary Dermatologist and Venereologist to the newly-opened clinics at Southport General Infirmary, in the grounds of which he was able to have constructed, the Southport Skin Hospital. He was also Dermatologist to the Southport

School Health Service, an appointment he still held at his death in 1959.

On his retirement from his appointment as Dermatologist and Venereologist at Southport in 1938, and Wigan in 1951, he was appointed Honorary Consultant Dermatologist to these hospitals. He also carried out dermatological examinations on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Social Security and worked for many years for the National Coal Board on compensation cases.

In 1926, Dr. Bardsley took on as a partner at 37, Church Street, Southport, Dr. A. Roby Jones, in what remained solely a dermatology and venereology practice, and they worked together until 1954, after which Bardsley continued in private practice until his death.

Dr. Albert Roby Jones was born in Liverpool in 1897 and graduated in medicine at the University of Liverpool in 1922, becoming an M.D. by thesis in 1924. His father was a G.P. in Liverpool and his brother, Henry Wallace Jones, was a heart specialist in Liverpool and South Africa. Following House Physician and House Surgeon posts at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary, Roby Jones became the Thelwall Thomas Fellow in Pathology for 1923-24, and in 1924 was appointed Clinical Assistant to Dr. R.W. MacKenna in the Dermatological Department of the Liverpool Royal Infirmary, an appointment he held for 2 years. In 1925 he was appointed assistant to Dr. Bardsley in the Venereal Disease Department of the Southport General Infirmary and also became Assistant Dermatologist to the Board of Education, Southport. In 1926, as already stated, he went into private practice partnership with Dr. Bardsley, and, in 1928, he was appointed Assistant Dermatologist to the Royal Infirmary, Wigan and also Assistant Medical Officer in the Venereal Disease Department, County Borough of Wigan. In 1938 he was appointed Honorary Dermatologist to the Southport Infirmary, and later, to Ormskirk and District General Hospital. After the partnership with Dr. Bardsley ended in 1954, Roby Jones continued to use the rooms at the same address for private dermatology and venereal disease work. He retired from his various hospitals in 1964, but continued as Dermatologist to the Southport Corporation School Health Service until 1970, and also carried out examinations on behalf of the Ministry of Social Security until the same date. During his time in Wigan, he also worked for the National Coal Board and its predecessor, the Northern Employers' Mutual Indemnity Company, including being Medical Officer for the mine rescue service in Wigan and District, until the job ended in 1967. Dr. Roby Jones died in 1971.

From 1964, the Wigan post became part of the Manchester region, with Dr. C.F.H. Vickers being appointed to the Southport and Ormskirk Hospitals (as well as to Liverpool Royal Infirmary). In 1970, on being appointed to Alder Hey, Dr. Vickers left the peripheral hospitals, being succeeded by Dr. T.W. Stewart, who was also on the staff of the Liverpool Royal Infirmary, and, as the Regional Dermatopathologist, a Senior Lecturer at the University of Liverpool. Dr. Stewart retired from his Liverpool commitments in 1991 but continued at Southport and Ormskirk until 1995, when he was succeeded by Dr. A.A. Memon. In 1990, as part of one of the frequent government-driven re-organisations of the National Health Service, the concept of outreach clinics was introduced i.e. consultants carrying out clinics in a general practitioner's

surgery. For various reasons, these were quite controversial at the time, but Dr. Stewart took part in the scheme from 1991 until 2003, when he retired completely from medical practice.

Dermatology has had its ups and downs in Liverpool over the past 100 or so years. From 1 or 2 consultants, the number has grown to 7 or 8 (but never enough to provide a thoroughly comprehensive service to the sick in the community), from a few beds, to over 500 (in 1941) but now back to only a few beds, and with the current managing authorities seeing a cut-back in consultant-led dermatology services as an easy way to save money, it is hard to forecast what the future holds for the specialty.

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Friedmann Professor P.S.

Hay J.C.

McGibbon C.

Molokhia M.M.

Readett M.D.

Sharpe G.R.

Verbov Professor J.L.

Vickers Professor C.F.H.

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