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**YORKSHIRE AND THE BRITISH DENTAL
ASSOCIATION:
THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS**

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YORKSHIRE AND THE BRITISH DENTAL ASSOCIATION: THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

Contents

Title	Page
Background	1
Introduction	1
Yorkshire And The First Branch	3
<i>The first BDA Section</i>	6
<i>The new Midland Branch</i>	8
<i>The Hull and East Yorkshire Section is formed</i>	11
<i>War efforts</i>	12
A Branch Of Its Own	13
<i>The Sheffield Section is formed</i>	15
<i>Hull goes independent</i>	17
<i>The prodigal returns</i>	21
Peace And War	21
<i>The Scarborough Section is formed</i>	23
<i>The new National Health Service</i>	27
<i>Annual meeting arrangements</i>	31
The Fifties	33
<i>Todmorden, a place too far</i>	36
<i>Men of influence</i>	36
<i>Pilkington and a President</i>	38
<i>The Royal Commission</i>	39
<i>Presidential preparations</i>	40
The Sixties	43
<i>Problems with Pilkington</i>	45
Changing Times, The Seventies	48
<i>Farewell to Old Friends</i>	48
<i>The new Branch is formed</i>	52
Postscript	53
Acknowledgements	53

Appendices:

A	Life Members of the Yorkshire Branch	54
B	Presidents of the Yorkshire Branch	54
C	Honorary Treasurers of the Yorkshire Branch	56
D	Honorary Secretaries of the Yorkshire Branch	56
E	Elected Members of the Representative Board	57

YORKSHIRE AND THE BRITISH DENTAL ASSOCIATION: THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

Geoffrey Pearson*

Background

One of the first articles about an aspect of the history of dentistry in Yorkshire to appear in the *British Dental Journal* occurred in 1976, when the 'Transactions of the Hull and East Yorkshire Section from its inception' was published.¹ This short article was based on recordings in the Section's account book. It created much interest among Journal readers. As a result, a further article on the history of the organised dental profession in Yorkshire in the formative years was published in the Journal in 1981.²

Some Yorkshire dentists have made outstanding contributions to dentistry, from the early days of the un-registered to its development as a University discipline. Hopefully this short history will provide a source of information about them.

Introduction

Until the middle of the nineteenth century dentistry had waxed and waned in its development. The Etruscans, some 700 years BC had made sophisticated partial dentures using gold wire, yet itinerant tooth drawers were a feature of the market place in the Middle Ages in Europe. There seems to have been little interest in dental treatment in the eighteenth century. Christine Hillam writes:

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1 Geoffrey Pearson, 'That accounts for seventy years', *Brit.Dent.J.*, 141(1976), 317.

2 Geoffrey Pearson, 'Dentists in the formative years of the BDA', *Brit.Dent.J.*, 150(1981), 231.

Fifteen towns in Yorkshire saw the presence of a visiting dentist in the 1790s, but only two, Hull and York itself, ever had a resident dentist for even part of the decade.³

The 1850s found dental practitioners in Britain divided into two opposing 'camps', the College of Dentists and the Odontological Society. The former had three times as many members as the latter. College members thought that dentistry should be an independent profession, whereas the Society's membership thought that it should be a specialty of medicine. Therefore they were delighted when Parliament approved and empowered the Royal College of Surgeons to institute examinations for the Licentiate in Dental Surgery in 1859.⁴ It was a hollow victory, for Parliament did not include any requirement to establish a dental register. This was a matter of concern to both dental organisations and pressure was successfully put upon the Government to pass the first Dentists' Act in 1878. This new Act granted a petition for the registration of the LDS and established a Dentist's Register. It prohibited use of the term 'dentist' for anyone whose name did not appear on the Dental Medical Register.⁵

The situation was much improved, but it was not difficult to circumvent the Act and many persons called themselves 'dentist' when they were not entitled to do so. If dentistry were to develop as a professional discipline then the 'quacks' would have to be rooted out. Dentistry had to be worthy of recognition as a profession, one demonstrating the practice of the highest ethical standards of care allied with constantly improving treatment procedures. Events dictated the formation of some form of Dental Association.

The dental pressure group responsible for the Dentists' Act becoming law was the 'Dental Reform Committee', and it became, 'en bloc', the Representative Board of the British Dental Association before the Association was actually formed. The decision to do so was made at a meeting held in London on 3 March 1879. J.N. Manton of Wakefield, H. Merryweather of Sheffield and C.J. Peacock of Scarborough were among those present.⁶ On 28 May 1880 the British Dental Association was incorporated.

YORKSHIRE AND THE FIRST BRANCH

On Wednesday 5 May 1880 the Trevelyan Hotel, Manchester was 'invaded' by dentists from almost half of England. Lancashire practitioners came from Manchester, Liverpool, Bolton, Rochdale, Bury and Stockport. Some came from the Midlands, from Buxton, Derby, Hanley, Stafford and Shrewsbury. Yorkshire was represented by J.N. Manton of Wakefield, W.H. Nicol from Leeds and W. Margetson from Dewsbury. Harry Campion of Manchester was elected to the Chair.⁷ This was a business meeting to consider a report from a Provisional Council which had been set up at a meeting on 24 January 1880. Those attending were asked to approve

draft Bye Laws, nominate Officers, and prepare details for a General Meeting

Thus the 'Midland Counties Dental Association' was formed for members in the counties of Lancashire, Cheshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Yorkshire. Members agreed to meet at least once each year. This new Association was formed before the British Dental Association was incorporated, but it soon became the first Branch of the new parent body.⁸ C.J. Peacock of Scarborough and H. Merryweather of Sheffield had been active members of the Dental Reform Committee, but they retired from the scene soon after the new Branch was formed. C.J. Peacock never qualified, but he did write a paper about an implantation case.⁹ He retired in 1889. Henry Merryweather MPharm (1842) MRCS (1857) MD (1868) lectured at Sheffield on dental surgery. He died in 1882.¹⁰ John Manton, however, played an active role in Branch affairs. Having originally qualified LDS England in 1863, he worked at the Middlesex Hospital with John Tomes producing a paper on extractions.¹¹

He moved to Wakefield in 1863. A keen member of the Odontological Society he was one of those responsible for lobbying the Government to pass the Dentists' Act in 1878. He was an original member of the Representative

3 Christine Hillam, *Dental Practice In Europe At The End Of The Eighteenth Century Transactions Of The Berlin Meeting, September 1992* (Liverpool: C.Hillam, 1992).

4 A.W. Lufkin, *A History of Dentistry* (London: Kimpton, 1948), p. 156.

5 *Ibid.*, p. 157.

6 British Dental Association, *Jubilee Book of the British Dental Association 1880-1930* (London: John Bale Sons and Danielsson, 1930), p. 64.

7 'Monthly review of dental surgery', *Journal of the British Dental Association*, 1(1880), 245.

8 British Dental Association, p. 5.

9 C.J. Peacock, 'A case in practice', *Monthly Rev. Dent. Surg.*, 4(1883), 111.

10 E. Muriel Spencer, personal communication, British Dental Association Library, 1978.

11 J.N. Manton, 'Statistical account of 1500 permanent teeth removed from various causes', *Trans. Odont. Soc.*, 2(1857), 23-30.

Board of the British Dental Association and attended almost every meeting of the Branch until his retirement in 1900.

In 1884, Joseph Harrison of Rotherham was elected Branch President at its annual meeting in Sheffield and George Brunton of Leeds was there to see him installed. George was born in Dalkieth in 1836 and educated in Edinburgh. He became apprenticed to an Edinburgh dentist and having 'learned the trade' he accepted the post of assistant in a Leeds practice and so became a Yorkshireman by adoption. He never sat a dental examination and yet his innovative enthusiasm in both the practice and the organization of dentistry and the profession was truly remarkable. In the Chair at a dental meeting in 1877 he expressed a desire to qualify, but it hardly seemed necessary in his case. He was elected to the Odontological Society in 1878 and by 1886 he had become a member of the Society's Council. In 1900 the Society recognized his talents by making him a Vice President. He was involved in dentistry at international level, presenting a paper at the 3rd International Dental Congress in Paris in 1900 on 'The Dental Yorick', a phantom head he had invented to teach students.¹² In 1886 the Presidency of the Midland Branch came to Bradford when A.M. Matthews was elected. It was at this meeting that J. Lee Pike of Sheffield joined the Branch Council. He was a tireless campaigner for the establishment of a dental school in Sheffield. J.H. Carter of Leeds was another Council member who attended this meeting. He was to become an early member of the teaching staff at the Leeds Dental School in 1905.¹³

York was the venue for the Branch Presidency in 1888 when T.E. King was honoured. He was elected a member of the Representative Board of the British Dental Association in 1889, becoming Branch Honorary Secretary in 1895. Arthur Cocker of Halifax was at this presidential meeting having joined the British Dental Association in 1887. A.B. Wolfendon was also present from Halifax. John C. Storey and John G. Wallis were there from Hull and E.J. Ladmore, T.B. Barnaby, and W.G. Jones came from Bradford.

From Leeds came J.M. Nicol, J.H. Carter, George Brunton, J.E. Greaves, F. Sherburn, W.A. Turner, T. Headridge, J. Horsfall and E. Dennison. The Sheffield area was represented by J. Lee Pike, J and F. Harrison, with G.H. Lodge from Rotherham and A.P. Wallis from Doncaster. North Yorkshire dentists attending were W. Cass Grayston and C.B. Mason from Scarborough, J.R. King from Malton, and C.A. and J. Barstow from Harrogate. R.D. Ashby and C. Reed came from Huddersfield and W. Taylor

represented Dewsbury. J.H. Osborn, W. Glaisby, and A.G. Rayner were among those recording their presence from York.

In 1890 George Brunton was elected to the Midland Branch Presidency, choosing Derby as the venue for the annual general meeting. Arthur Cocker had been joined by his brother Alfred Cocker of Sowerby Bridge. George, as a member of the Representative Board, sought approval for the establishment of a library and museum in 1891.¹⁴ His plea was rejected because the Association had no permanent headquarters at that time, but his reputation as a visionary was becoming established.

In 1893 a much travelled and widely experienced dentist set up in practice in Harrogate. Dr Thomas Gaddes had arrived. Tom Gaddes was born in Carlisle in 1848. He became articled to Warwick Hale, a dentist in the town, but he felt the need to qualify.

In 1875, he was awarded a Licentiate in Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons following his studies at the London Dental Hospital. He went on to obtain a further LDS from the Edinburgh Royal College in 1881. He set up in practice in London where he met Oakley Coles, Dean of the National Dental Hospital who appointed him Assistant Dental Surgeon and Lecturer in Dental Anatomy at the Hospital. He became Sub-Dean and subsequently succeeded Oakley Coles as Dean. He displayed literary talents, producing a book about teeth that was designed to interest the general public and he helped Oakley Coles in the production of his notebook for dental students. J. Stocken sought his advice when writing the third edition of his book on *materia medica*.

In 1881 Tom became the editor of the *Dental Record*, a post he held for seven years. His output of dental papers was considerable. Then in 1889 he married, and the newlyweds set sail for the United States. Once there he took the degree of Doctor of Medicine and became Dean of the University of Colorado's dental department and Professor of 'Dental Histology and Microscopy'.¹⁵

Did American academia fail to inspire him? Did either he or his wife long to return to their home country? There is no recorded comment, but 1893 found him back in England in dental practice in Harrogate. Tom would soon put his experience and great enthusiasm to use in the affairs of the British Dental Association and in the foundation of academic dentistry in his newly adopted county.

12 *Brit.Dent.J.*, 39(1918), 133, Obituary of George Brunton.

13 S.T. Anning, *The Leeds Public Dispensary* (Leeds: Thorseby Society, 1974), LIV, p. 160.

14 British Dental Association, p. 112.

15 *Brit.Dent.J.*, 40(1919), 925, Obituary of Thomas Gaddes.

In the early days of the British Dental Association members were elected to its Representative Board on an annual basis. In 1892 the articles were refined. Each Branch would now elect two members annually and a further 12 members would be elected from the Association. In 1893 John Storey was elected from the Midlands Branch to serve on the Board along with M. Johnson of Chester. John Charles Storey LDS had a dental practice on Anlaby Road in Hull. He was a regular attendee at Branch meetings, having been elected to the Branch Council in 1891. In 1895 he became President of the Branch at a meeting in Hull attended by Dr Tom Gaddes. Five years had elapsed since George Brunton had represented Yorkshire as President of the Midland Branch; the balance was restored when John's year of office was followed by Frank Harrison who was installed as Branch President in his native Sheffield in 1896. This was a time when all meetings were Branch meetings, but things would soon change...

The first BDA Section

George Brunton and Tom Geddes were encouraging dentists in their local area to meet. Lilian Lindsay, in her paper 'The earliest branch of the BDA', writes

In Leeds and District, men were meeting in each others houses.¹⁶

Towards the close of 1896 a meeting was held in Leeds. George and Tom Gaddes were there along with J.C. Birch, A.A. Matthews and C. Rippon of Leeds, E.J. Ladmore of Bradford, A. Lodge of Huddersfield, J. Taylor of Dewsbury, A.B. Wolfendon of Halifax, R.L. Young and I. Renshaw of Rochdale, the President Elect of the Branch.

They formed 'The Society of the Leeds and District Members of the Midland Branch of the BDA'. Thus the first Section of the British Dental Association came into being. George Brunton was appointed President and Tom Gaddes became the President Elect. By now Dr Gaddes was an elected member of the Representative Board, having been nominated at the annual general meeting of the Branch in 1896. Being keen to establish the Leeds area as a focal point for dental teaching, he must have been envious of the situation in Sheffield where a Dental Department was about to be set up at the Royal Hospital.

* In 1898 the Presidency of the Branch went to C. Brown Mason of Scarborough. George Brunton was now a member of the Business and General

Purposes Committee of the Association, and in 1900 he became President of the British Dental Association. In the same year Tom Gaddes was elected President of the Branch at the annual meeting held in Leeds. He was the first President to serve a two-year term, for the meeting decided:

In consequence of there being no address or other function associated with the presidential chair this year, the Council recommend that Dr Gaddes remain President in 1901.

So it was to be a two-year term, involving arrangements for George Brunton's presidential inauguration in 1900. Tom organised matters with the Principal of the Yorkshire College and the Dean of the Leeds Medical School. George Brunton's Presidency would be accompanied by scientific meetings to be held at the Yorkshire College, and the Hotel Metropole would be the social headquarters for the British Dental Association's delegates. In his inaugural address he spoke of J. Priestley, the local scientist who had first discovered oxygen. He went on to seek their support and interest in the extension of the Honorary Surgeon's appointment at the Leeds Dispensary to a fully-fledged department. This could form the nucleus of a dental school. During his Presidential year he created much interest in his invention of the aluminium phantom head referred to earlier.

Tom Gaddes' attention was focused on improving the status of the profession. He published a paper on 'Fresh legislation for the prohibition of unqualified practice' and developed this theme in a paper delivered to the Western Counties Branch. He and George Brunton must have been a formidable pair in 1900, with an infectious enthusiasm that spread to their Yorkshire colleagues.

Pressure was directed towards the Faculty of the Leeds Dispensary, where members of the Dispensary Committee were urged to start a dental department. The Medical Department of the Yorkshire College and the Infirmary could provide suitable lecture courses, and practical work could be carried out at the Dispensary. A complete course in Dentistry would thus be possible, a course which would attract students into the area. Some would stay in Yorkshire on qualifying and would play a part in the development of the dental profession.

Following the Dentists' Act of 1878, the honorary medical staff at the Infirmary in Leeds asked for an honorary dental surgeon to be appointed to the Dispensary and, in 1881, their request was granted. The first incumbent stayed only a few months, the second for some two and a half years, but Frederick Sherburn was the Dispensary's Honorary Dentist from 1884 to

16 Lilian Lindsay, 'The earliest branch of the BDA', *Brit.Dent.J.* 66(1939), 124.

1905.¹⁷ He displayed an interest in Branch matters and his appointment was the foundation for George Brunton, Tom Gaddes and others to build upon in their efforts to establish a dental school. It was no accident that George Brunton elected to hold his national presidential meeting in Leeds at this time, attracting much local interest in dentistry.

The British Dental Association now had 1089 members, a fourfold increase in twenty years.¹⁸ Membership of the Midlands Branch had increased in proportion, although its area remained unchanged. Leicestershire, Staffordshire and Shropshire were still members, despite the formation of a Central Counties Branch in 1884. The Midlands Branch required restructuring. The agenda of the Representative Board meeting on Saturday 3 August 1901 included a proposition that the Midlands Branch should have a change of name to the North Midlands Branch, with an appropriate reduction in geographical area. The proposition was accepted.

On the same day George Brunton gave his valedictory address after 14 months in presidential office. He mourned the loss of Edward VII and, with pleasure, announced that the first meeting of the Federation Dentaire Internationale would take place on the following Wednesday in Cambridge. The Edwardian era was at an end, but Tom Gaddes would lead dentistry in Yorkshire into a new age.

The new Midland Branch

The Midland Counties had initially covered a very large area because there were few dentists at the time of its formation and only such a large territory could encompass a viable Branch membership. Attending a Branch meeting was quite an event, involving the use of the extensive railway network of the period. A group of members would meet at their local railway station, sit together in a compartment, talk about the forthcoming meeting and play cards.¹⁹

Surprisingly, the decision to form the smaller North Midland Branch from this larger parent made little difference to the mileage between meeting places. It was no longer necessary to journey so far into the Midlands, but the new Branch stretched from coast to coast, from Liverpool to Hull and Scarborough. It still included Derbyshire and a part of Nottinghamshire. Furthermore, there was no change of President. Members had elected Tom

Gaddes for two years in 1900 so his presidency would continue. When he gave his inaugural address at the start of his second year he built his theme around the need for dentistry to be recognised as a specialty by the Universities.

Perhaps it is not too great an exaggeration to note that members of the Branch fulfilled an important educative role in dentistry at this time. Branch meetings would be addressed by individual members on the results of some specialized aspect of their work. Professional standards formed an important part of Branch's duties together with the overseeing of Branch appointments. This all made for a complex Branch structure which meant that five sub-committees had to be elected at every annual general meeting. There was the Law and Ethics Committee, the Public Appointments Committee, the Scientific Investigations Committee, the Dental Education Committee and the Benevolent Fund Committee.

Since each Committee met regularly apart from Branch Council meetings, members were clearly devoted to their work for the Branch. There were always two general meetings each year, held usually in October and February. Members could find themselves in Liverpool for an October meeting and in Matlock for a cold meeting in February. An elected member of the Branch Council could well be engaged in executive meetings while preparing a paper for the forthcoming general meeting of the Branch.

Yorkshire provided presidents to the North Midland Branch in alternate years. In 1903, the annual meeting was held in Bradford under the presidency of G.H. Lodge of Rotherham. Members discussed progress on the development of a dental school in Sheffield and the need for a similar one in Leeds. Henry Merryweather, a member of the Representative Board of the Association between 1864 and 1882, had lectured in Dental Surgery at the old Sheffield Medical School and this could have helped to give Sheffield the lead in the establishment of a dental school.

The Sheffield Association of Licentiates in Dental Surgery were a group of qualified dentists who actively lobbied for a dental school in their area and some of their more prominent members became honorary lecturers by appointment to the newly formed dental department of the Royal Hospital in 1896. They were J. Lee Pike – who had first been elected to the Midland Branch Council in 1886 – J.S. Allen and F. Mordaunt, a keen Branch member.²⁰

17 Anning, p. 146.

18 British Dental Association, p. 20.

19 G.H. Webb, personal communication, 4 December 1976.

20 A.W. Chapman, *The Story of a Modern University – The History of the University of Sheffield* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1955), p. 158.

Efforts toward the establishment of a Leeds Dental School were beginning to bear fruit in 1901 when the Committee of the Leeds Dispensary agreed the construction of a new building of five rooms to accommodate a dental department. Students would receive their theoretical instruction in courses of lectures to be given at the Yorkshire College and practical studies would take place at the Dispensary. They would be expected to help with the work of the Department. Final approval to go ahead was granted in February 1902.

The birth and subsequent development of both the Leeds and Sheffield dental schools have much bearing on the history of the British Dental Association in Yorkshire. Many of the early teachers were influential members of the BDA and a number of students subsequently rose to high office in it.

In 1905 six honorary dental surgeons were appointed to the new Leeds school.²¹ They were John. H. Carter, who had been a member of the Midland Branch since inauguration, William Margetson, who had attended that very first meeting at the Trevelyan Hotel, James Greaves, Percy Leigh, Walter Marston and Arthur Plumley.²² James Greaves had joined the Branch in 1888 and both Percy Leigh and Walter Marston would become Branch Presidents in 1922 and 1928 respectively. In the beginning students took the diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons, but individual members of the staff became University lecturers and an LDS Leeds was awarded in 1910.²³ Eventually teaching was brought into the University in 1914 when the Dental School was formed.²⁴

When George Brunton became President of the British Dental Association in 1901, Yorkshire dentists little thought that the honour would come the way of another member in a mere four years. On the 19 May 1905, Dr Tom Gaddes was elected President of the Association at the annual meeting of the BDA in Southport. In his inaugural address he expressed his concern about the un-registered. He thought it anomalous that the Dental Register did not limit the practice of dentistry to those educated, examined and qualified in dentistry. He reported that there were still un-registered men in practice. In the North Midlands area 125 persons had been un-registered in 1899. In 1905 the number had increased to 303. In Leeds the numbers of un-registered practitioners had increased from 16 to 40 over the same period. He was also

21 Anning, p. 146.

22 *Ibid.*, p. 160.

23 *Ibid.*, p. 147.

24 *Ibid.*

concerned about poor people who had no dental service and children whose teeth were not receiving the priority they ought to have. He called for a programme of prevention. His breadth of vision was far ahead of his time. He was a spokesman for the Association's collective thinking, and in 1905 the BDA published a memorandum on the condition of the teeth of schoolchildren and sent it to the Committee of the Board of Education.

Tom had fought hard to establish a change in the rules of the Association whereby members would be elected to the Representative Board for a three-year term, and this came about during his presidential year of office. One seat was allotted to each Branch and one further seat was set aside for every 50 members.²⁵ Thus the North Midland Branch acquired five seats.

The Hull and East Yorkshire Section is formed

On 28 October 1905 the Branch held a meeting in Hull where Herbert Wallis was one of those presenting a paper. He, like many of his Hull colleagues, was keen to form a Section. On 6 December of that year he arranged a meeting at the Imperial Hotel in Hull, which was addressed by Tom Gaddes and Percy Leigh. Their subject was 'The Methods and Objects of a Section'. On the same night the Hull and East Yorkshire Section was officially formed. Tom Gaddes took the chair and the meeting elected Thomas Audas as President of the Section. George Wilson became the Honorary Treasurer and Herbert Wallis, the son of J.G. Wallis, was elected the Honorary Secretary. Percy Leigh from Leeds together with Hull members J.L. Charter, J.W. Hislop, H.F. King and J.C. Storey comprised the committee. John Storey was a Past President of the Branch and a former member of the Representative Board. Thomas Audas had the LDS qualification, practiced in fashionable George Street in Hull and always wore a frock coat when working.²⁶

Tom Gaddes not only inaugurated the Hull and East Yorkshire Section, he also launched the Kent Section, the North Surrey Section, the North London Section, the West London Section and the Northern Counties Branch.²⁷

As Tom Gaddes' year as national President of the British Dental Association came to an end, Charles Rippon became President of the North Midlands Branch at the annual meeting held in Leeds on 28 June 1906.

25 British Dental Association, p. 75.

26 Webb. (George Webb bought Tom Audas' practice.)

27 British Dental Association, *The Advance of the Dental Profession* (Brighton: Southern Publishing Group/Westminster Press Ltd., 1979), p. 94.

Charles Rippon was born in Huddersfield where, having first been apprenticed to a local dentist, he went on to qualify with the LDS of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland in 1885. He joined the British Dental Association two years later and he became an elected member of the Representative Board in 1899.

He was an excellent prosthetist and later he became a lecturer and examiner in dental mechanics at the Leeds Dental School. This led to external examiner duties at both the Liverpool and Manchester Dental Schools. He was appointed dental surgeon, later consultant dental surgeon, to the Dewsbury Infirmary. He was a keen supporter of the Leeds and District Section, and was elected President of the Section in 1902.²⁸

Yorkshire continued to provide its share of Branch Presidents. W. Cass Grayston of Scarborough took office in 1908, and he was immediately followed by Alfred Cocker who was installed at the annual general meeting held in Blackpool in 1909. It was at this meeting that section secretaries were to be admitted to the Branch Council as ex-officio members. Two years later John George Wallis of Hull became President. John had been a Branch Council member since 1888. He was a qualified man with a successful practice, which he shared with his son Herbert. In 1914 it was the turn of A.A. Matthews. He had first joined the Branch Council in 1894.

In 1910 W.J. Law of Sheffield was appointed Honorary Branch Secretary, a position he held during the First World War.

War Efforts

In 1917 the Branch collected enough money for the Branch Secretary and his wife to go to Leysin in Switzerland, near where a number of British troops were interned. Yorkshire members were concerned about the dental health of the troops. H.J. Morris of Sheffield was made the joint Branch Secretary to cover his absence. When W.J. Law returned in 1918 he gave members of the Branch a detailed account of the work he had done:²⁹

Number of men treated	834
Number of visits	3105
Extractions	1665
Fillings	1405
Root fillings	275

28 *Brit.Dent.J.*, 50(1929), 1164, Obituary; *Den.Rec.*, 49(1929), 547; *Dent.Surg.*, 26(1929), 586.

29 *Brit.Dent.J.*, 11(1918), 612.

Scalings	226
Dressings	1136
Crowns	43
Dentures	393

He was congratulated on his work which, members felt, had brought credit to the North Midland Branch.

In 1914 the Hull and East Yorkshire Section had a collection in response to the Grand Duke Michael's Fund to provide gloves for the troops in the front line. On 23 November of that year their members sent £4 4s. to the fund.

The Government requested that travelling should be reduced as much as possible because of the war, and there were no Branch meetings in 1917. Perhaps it was this enforced isolation that caused Manchester members to think that they had enough members to form a separate Branch. Liverpool members, however, did not wish to break away from the North Midland Branch because they felt that a Manchester Branch could leave them isolated geographically. The matter would be resolved in 1919.

What had happened to those two Yorkshire stalwarts Tom Gaddes and George Brunton? Tom retired from his Harrogate practice in 1911 and returned to the area of his birth, settling for a time in Penrith. In 1914 he attended the Sixth International Dental Congress to present a paper on the teaching of dentistry. George Brunton lectured at the same meeting, which was held to coincide with the annual meeting of the British Dental Association. The Congress came to an abrupt end. War had been declared. Tom Gaddes didn't settle in Penrith. He moved to Watford and then to Leigh on Sea. He saw the end of hostilities and a return to peace, unlike George Brunton who died on 22 January 1918 at the age of 81 years.

A BRANCH OF ITS OWN

On 8 August 1919 the Annual Business Meeting of the British Dental Association met in the Fyvie Hall of the Polytechnic in Regent Street, London. In the chair was Norman Bennett and on the agenda was the question of the North Midland Branch. Manchester members wanted their own Branch, but this was opposed by the Liverpool members who thought this would isolate them. H.A. Mahoney, Honorary Secretary of the North Midland Branch saw no need to change. Some members thought that there were sufficient numbers to make three Branches a viable proposition, and it was this proposal that was finally adopted. From henceforth there would be three Branches, a Yorkshire Branch, a West Lancashire and West Cheshire Branch and an East Lancashire

and East Cheshire Branch. The prospect of having a Yorkshire Branch, while pleasing, twinged with sadness for many members thought that regular contacts built up over the years would disappear. Although joint Branch meetings could take place, things would never be the same. Nevertheless, with 109 members the Yorkshire Branch would be able to make its own way.

On 8 November 1919 the first meeting of the new Branch was held in Leeds. Charles Rippon was appointed the caretaker President, W.J. Law retained the post of Branch Secretary and H.A. Mahoney continued as Council Secretary. A.W. Turton of Hull, S.D. Hey of Leeds and H.J. Morris of Sheffield were nominated to serve on the Representative Board. On Friday 12 December 1919 the first Council meeting took place at the Hotel Metropole, Leeds. Just one week before, Dr Tom Gaddes had died at Leigh on Sea aged 71 years. Members stood in silence in memory of this former member who had been an American professor, a magazine editor, a dental politician, a successful Harrogate dentist and one of their own members.

The first task of the Council was to draw up Branch rules. It was decided to drop the North Midland Branch rule that had required members to give a subscription to the Branch in addition to their BDA subscription. From henceforth any member of the Association practising in the Branch area would automatically become a member of the Branch. Next came the question of Branch boundaries.

The river Tees was a natural division, and members in the Stockton, Guisborough and Redcar region would join the Northern Counties Branch. The southern and eastern boundaries remained a problem and it was decided to approach the Eastern Counties Branch about this. At the moment Worksop, Retford and Chesterfield members had no Branch representation.

The first annual general meeting of the new Yorkshire Branch was held in Scarborough on 11 and 12 June 1920. Robert Lindsay, the Secretary of the British Dental Association, attended and expressed confidence that the Worksop, Retford and Chesterfield problem would be resolved. He had had a meeting with the Eastern Counties Branch about this difficulty. The rules of the new Yorkshire Branch had been approved by the Representative Board of the Association and the Branch was now properly constituted. The caretaker officers remained in post, Charles Rippon continuing as President. It was decided to send a circular to all dentists in the Branch asking for details about un-registered practices in their area, an action which pre-empted Government legislation a year later with the passage of the second Dentists' Act on 28 June 1921. No longer would un-registered dentists be able to set up in practice.

In 1911, when the Health Insurance Act had been guided through Parliament and into law by Lloyd George, he had promised to include additional benefits in the future.

In 1921 the Government was considering dental insurance cover for dental treatment as an additional benefit. The Insurance Act and a National Dental Service Committee had been in existence for some years. In 1913 the Committee had produced a report that requested the Government to appoint representatives on advisory and other committees with a view to the inclusion of dental treatment in any subsequent amendment to the original Insurance Act. By 1921 a scale of fees had been arranged between the National Dental Service Committee and the Ideal Benefit Society. This scale was debated at a meeting of the Yorkshire Branch Council held in September of the same year and accepted by the members.

However, it was thought necessary to inform all Branch members of this decision, and meetings were arranged in Leeds, Sheffield and Hull in order to seek the support of the Branch membership for Council's decision. Members accepted the scale of fees at this time, but it would soon create great problems, great enough to tear the Branch apart.

In 1921 V.C. Burt was elected Branch Honorary Secretary on the resignation of W.J. Law and, on 22 March 1922, John Munroe Macrae was elected to the post of Honorary Council Secretary following the departure of H.A. Mahoney for London. John Macrae was born in Inverness on 19 February 1883. Having chosen dentistry as a career he came to Leeds in order to study for the Licentiate in Dental Surgery, which he obtained in 1917. Having started out as a school dentist he entered general dental practice in Shipley. He joined the British Dental Association in 1919, and soon became an active member of the new Branch.

The Sheffield Section is Formed

On 24 May 1922, Sheffield members informed the Yorkshire Branch that they wished to form a Section. This was approved with pleasure, for many Sheffield members, from Frank Harrison in the 1880s to H.J. Morris, who was President Elect of the Branch in 1922, had played important roles in the development of the dental profession at both Branch and University level. It was fitting that the new Section should host the Branch annual meeting in 1923, not long after the British Dental Association had moved into new headquarters in London.

The first meeting of the BDA had been held in rooms at the Dental Hospital in Leicester Square. Headquarters were later set up in Hanover Square, but this building soon proved to be too small. So 23 Russell Square had become the new headquarters of the Association in 1920. Charles Rippon reminded the meeting that the Yorkshire Branch had so far failed to respond to a request for funding to help in the move to new headquarters. He had asked

staff in London what would be an acceptable gift from the Yorkshire Branch. Members agreed to send £25 to purchase a table for magazines.

Membership of the Yorkshire Branch had increased from 109 in 1919 to 179 in the space of four years, and some activities were becoming regular features at the annual general meeting. In 1923 a golf meeting was organised, and this has since become an established part of proceedings. At first members donated prizes, but in 1926 Arthur W. Turton of Hull presented the Branch with a golf cup and this has been competed for ever since (although the original one has been replaced).

Branch members were concerned that the Government were proposing to amend the Dentists' Act in 1923. They were opposed to any change and lobbied their Members of Parliament about this.

It was agreed that the Sheffield Section, formed in the previous year, should extend its boundaries to include those members from Worksop, Retford and Chesterfield who had previously had no Branch. The proposal that they could join with members of the Eastern Counties had not born fruit. The functions of the Branch's Sections were unclear. It was decided to write to each Section in order to seek views on the development of a clear relationship between the functions of Sections and those of the Branch.

Other than sending delegates to the National Dental Service Committee, the Yorkshire Branch had no sub-committees in 1923 to deal with more routine matters. In September 1924 it was decided to form an executive committee – which would consist of the President, the Honorary Secretaries and the Honorary Treasurer – a Benevolent Fund Committee and a General Purposes Committee, which would be the Branch Council itself. Stephen Hey relinquished his Honorary Treasurer's post for one year, as he became Branch President, and G.L. Wilkinson took on the role. Stephen Hey had joined the staff of the Leeds Dispensary in 1908 on the departure of William Margetson, becoming Warden of the Dental Department.³⁰ He had served on the Representative Board of the British Dental Association from 1919, originally with Arthur Turton and H.J. Morris, but now with Charles Rippon.

Towards the end of 1924, members were becoming uneasy about the way negotiations were heading on the National Dental Service Committee. The BDA Secretary, Robert Lindsay, sent a letter to the Branch which asked the members to appoint a representative to the special committee of the NDSC. This they refused to do.

It would have been impossible to cast aside all thought of the old North Midland Branch, and on 27 and 28 February 1925 a most enjoyable meeting was held in Blackpool.

The West Lancashire and West Cheshire Branch were the hosts to so successful a meeting that the Yorkshire Branch hosted an identical meeting in Harrogate in March 1926.

The Branch had prudently established a reserve fund and, in 1925, £50 was donated from it to the Leeds Dental School to go towards the cost of the new dental hospital that was being built on land adjacent to the Infirmary.³¹ It was therefore appropriate that the annual meeting of the Branch in 1926, held at the Leeds Medical School, should approve an identical grant from the reserve fund for the Sheffield Dental School. The Sheffield School had expanded in 1922 and new equipment had been provided at the Royal Hospital. Unfortunately, the mechanics laboratory was too small and dental students had to serve 'apprenticeships' at local practitioners. By 1925 the School had a dental workshop and, in 1928, a new outpatients department was opened. The Branch was not the only agency providing funding, for the Dental Board agreed to help towards the cost of re-equipment.³² The annual meeting of 1926 elected George Grundy as President. V.C. Burt was re-elected Branch Secretary but resigned shortly after, and J.M. Macrae took over the roles of both Branch and Council Secretary. R.J. Oliver became President Elect, and everyone looked forward to meeting in Hull the following year. It was not to be.

Hull goes Independent

Reg and Cyril Oliver were brothers who practised dentistry in Hull and who were keen members of the Council of the Yorkshire Branch. When the scale of fees for Insured Persons was agreed in 1926, Reg Oliver was irate. His anger was directed at the Representative Board of the British Dental Association, which he thought had no business to approve any terms and conditions on behalf of the dental profession. The Board should have first presented them to the profession as a whole in order to seek its collective view, perhaps through a referendum. The scale was inadequate in his view. If that was the best the British Dental Association could do, he told his Hull colleagues, then members were better off without it. Members of the Hull and East Yorkshire Section should resign en masse.

31 *Ibid.*

32 Chapman, p. 326.

30 Anning, p.147.

Many Branch members felt sympathy with Reg Oliver's views, and a special meeting of the Yorkshire Branch was called for Saturday 16 November 1926 to review the conditions on which the agreement with the approved societies had been reached and ultimately signed by the executive. Was the action of the Representative Board correct? Had the Yorkshire representatives acted properly? Reg Oliver put forward his resolution:

The Board, Council and the Executive have used their governing powers unreasonably in having set up machinery for ascertaining the wishes of the Association and then refused to abide by those wishes. In the opinion of this meeting the only reasonable course was, first to have ascertained whether the Minister of Health was acting within his rights in refusing to allow contracting out and, if so, to have referred the whole matter back to the Branches.

The motion was debated at some length before the following amendment was put to the meeting and carried by 23 votes to 19:

This meeting of the Yorkshire Branch records its approval and appreciation of the action taken by their representatives in regard to the agreement reached with the approved societies. The meeting, however, regrets that the Board, Council and the Executive seem to have slighted unnecessarily the expressed views of many members of the BDA in regard to contracting out and failing to refer to the membership before ratifying the agreement.

Two days later the Branch Council met at the Hotel Metropole, Leeds. Reg Oliver was there and he was not pleased with the amended resolution carried at the special general meeting. He did not wish to be a member of any Association that disregarded the wishes of its membership. If the majority of the members of the Representative Board were in favour of ratifying the scale, then the Yorkshire Branch representatives should have voted under protest. He resigned from the BDA and his resignation was accompanied by most Hull and East Yorkshire Section members. They became the independent 'Hull and District Society of Dental Surgeons'. On 19 March 1927, C.F. Rilot, Chairman of the Representative Board, addressed a branch meeting in Scarborough on 'The negotiations leading to the ratification of the scale of fees'. He received a hearty vote of thanks, but the meeting passed the following resolution:

That the Branch should have nothing to do with a clearinghouse scheme for the collection and payment of fees for work done for members of approved societies.

The Branch was sympathetic to the views of Reg Oliver, but this was not enough to keep him and his Section content. George Webb, a prominent Hull member of the time, recalled Reg walking out of a meeting in rage at

their lack of militancy only to put his head round the door a few moments later and say, 'I've come back for my hat.' Robert Hill of York replaced Reg Oliver as President Elect, and the Branch continued without one Section.

Charles Rippon was to be installed as President of the British Dental Association in 1928 when the annual meeting would be held in Leeds. Organisation of the national meeting was a matter for the host Branch, and so 1927 was a very busy year. Messrs Grundy, Crawford, Leigh, Saville and Hey formed the Reception Committee. The Demonstrations and Museums Committee members were Messrs Law, Childs, Sykes, Wilkinson, Mawer, Iles, J.P. Cocker and Morris. A Ladies Committee was necessary, and this comprised Charles Rippon's sister, Mrs M. Miller, supported by Mesdames Leigh, Smedley, Hey and Morris. A Golf Committee was formed as part of the overall Organising Committee of Robert Hill, Stephen Hey, John Macrae, the chairmen and secretaries of all the other Sections of the Branch with Walter Marston as Chairman. A target of £600 was initially sought from donations to pay for a Branch reception, but this soon had to be raised to £700. Stephen Hey asked the Vicar of Leeds to hold a special service on Sunday 5 August 1928 as part of the conference agenda. The Demonstration and Museums Committee reported that 25 demonstrations and 76 items for the museum were likely and a trade exhibit had been arranged.

The year of the Association's annual meeting coincided with a further development of the Leeds Dental School when, in March 1928, the new dental hospital was opened.

Charles Rippon had close associations with the dental school, but it was Percy Cocker who, as joint honorary secretary of the Demonstrations and Museums Committee, involved the school in matters at the Association's annual meeting.

Percy Cocker was born in Halifax on 10 September 1891. His father, Arthur Cocker, and his uncle, Alfred Cocker, had been active members of the Branch. Percy qualified LDS at the Leeds Dental School in 1913. He joined Dr Plumley's dental practice in Wakefield soon after. During the years of the First World War he served as Consultant Oral Surgeon to the Wakefield War Hospital and the Clayton Hospital, before joining the staff of the Leeds Dental School in 1918. By 1928 he had become Chairman of the Dental Committee at the School. He had been a member of the North Midland Branch Council and had held executive positions in the Leeds and District Section. Percy Cocker would go on to play a very important role in both national and Branch affairs.

Routine Branch Council business could not be held in abeyance because of the annual meeting of the Association, and so the annual meeting of the Yorkshire Branch was held on 2 August 1928. This was followed by an in-

formal reception at the Queen's Hotel, Leeds, which heralded the start of the annual meeting of the British Dental Association. Charles Rippon had fought hard to establish a dental school in Leeds, and the University chose the occasion of his accession as President to honour him with a PhD degree.

In his inaugural address Charles Rippon referred to the new Leeds Dental School and hospital buildings and went on to discuss the need to match modern dental teaching with the requirements of modern dental practice. Dentistry was becoming more mechanistic in his view, inlays had replaced cohesive gold as a filling material and there were other signs of change.

The annual meeting of the Association was a success, and Percy Cocker received special mention for his part in arranging much of the educational aspect of the meeting. After all the bills had been paid there was a surplus which, because donors refused to take any money back, was presented to the Benevolent Fund of the BDA.

Although membership of the Yorkshire Branch had reached 196 members in 1928, this only represented 52.5 per cent of those eligible to join. Some Yorkshire dentists, dissatisfied with both the BDA and the National Insurance Scheme, were contracting out of the latter – a move which the Branch Council criticised on the grounds of unfairness both to the Societies and the dental profession.

The Branch's annual meeting in 1929 was held in Scarborough on 28 and 29 June, when R.B. Hunter was elected President. Once more the Secretary of the BDA attended, and informed them that a statutory body, the Dental Benefit Council, had been formed to supervise the administration of dental treatment under the Health Insurance Act. The scientific part of the meeting was led by Dr L.S. Debenham, who gave a lecture on the Gillies Fry method of treatment for cleft palate.

On 20 September 1929 Charles Rippon died. His health had not been good during his presidential year of office. His death was a sad loss to the dental profession and to the town of Dewsbury where he had involved himself in local activities. Following retirement from dental practice he was elected a member of the Dewsbury Town Council. He was a keen Freemason, and held provincial rank in the Royal Arch Chapter. He was buried in his hometown of Huddersfield at the age of 67 years.³³ The Branch Council met three days later, when members paid tribute to his work nationally and locally for the BDA and for his considerable contribution to the development of the Leeds Dental School.

The Prodigal Returns

This same meeting of the Council went on to discuss the possibility of holding a general meeting in Hull. The Hull and District Society of Dental Surgeons still existed, but a number of its members were unhappy about their self-isolation. The Council agreed that Messrs Cocker, Macrae and Sykes should meet Hull colleagues to re-establish links. On 22 February 1930 the delegation made their visit, accompanied by W. Malcolm Knott, the President of the British Dental Association. They were so well received that the Hull and District Society of Dental Surgeons was disbanded immediately. Its ending was so swift that the office of President was never brought to an end and George Webb retained the presidency of a non-existent Society to his death.

Problems with the scale of fees still loomed large. John Macrae, Stephen Hey and R.B. Hunter, Representative Board members (at this time Branch Presidents served on the Board), had opposed a forthcoming reduction in the fee scale at an extraordinary general meeting of the Yorkshire Branch held in January 1930. This view had been endorsed by those present at the meeting. However it was not held by a majority of Representative Board members, who told the representatives on the Dental Benefit Joint Committee to argue for no reduction in fees greater than seven and a half per cent and that any agreed scale should be obligatory on all the approved Societies. Perhaps it was not surprising that one month later, when Hull returned to the fold, Mr Knott addressed the meeting on 'The dental profession and how it is served'. Some Yorkshire Branch and Hull Section members were thus made aware of the limitations of negotiation.

George Webb had always been sad at the departure of Hull from the Association, and he expressed pleasure at Mr Knight's visit and the presence of so many people from Yorkshire. The meeting was informed that a vacancy existed on the Representative Board, and Hull rebel Reg Oliver was nominated to fill it. The revolt was over.

PEACE AND WAR

With the return of the Hull and East Yorkshire Section to the Branch, membership stood at 218. R.J. Oliver was duly elected to serve on the Representative Board to join Stephen Hey, John Macrae and the Branch President. The annual meeting of the Branch in 1930 took place at the Hotel Metropole, Leeds, on Friday 4 and Saturday 5 April and the programme followed the established pattern of the time.

33 *Brit. Dent. J.*, 50(1929), 1164, Obituary.

It began with two golf competitions. On the Friday morning at 10 am there was a single against bogey, when the winner received the Turton Cup. In the afternoon a foursome competition took place, partners being drawn by ballot. This commenced at 2 pm, and proceeds from the entrance fee of 2s. 6d. were divided between the first and second couples. Golf was followed in the evening by the annual dinner. Branch Council met on the Saturday before the annual business meeting and this, in turn, was followed by an open meeting when the retiring President gave a valedictory address. He then installed the new President (which was J.W. Mawer in 1930), who gave his inaugural address before introducing a guest speaker. On this occasion S. Hallam spoke on 'The oral expression of systemic disease'. In the afternoon there were demonstrations. In 1930 the Leeds Section Chairman, C.H. Child, demonstrated radiographic techniques, Stephen Hey demonstrated the use of a straight elevator, John Macrae talked about the use of coal gas and oxygen for fusing gold inlays and G.L. Roberts demonstrated the apicectomy operation. Read Walker showed some x-rays and models, and G.L. Wilkinson showed members how to restore broken down front teeth without de-vitalising them. Afternoon tea followed at 4 pm, before a 'black tie' dinner in the evening.

Clinical meetings were not confined to Yorkshire Branch boundaries. On 1 November 1930 there was a joint meeting with the Northern Counties Branch in Durham, a meeting repeated on 5 March 1932 in Scarborough.

In 1931 the Branch sent a deputation to the Chief Constable of the West Riding Constabulary about a scale of fees for members of the Police Force. It was agreed that the BDA's scale would form a basis for all estimates, and this was endorsed by the Association. But the most important event of 1931 was the establishment of a Chair in Clinical Dental Surgery, a whole-time post that was to be combined with that of Warden of the Dental School. It was partly funded by the Dental Board of the United Kingdom. Thomas Talmage Read LDS RFPS FRFPS, from the Glasgow Dental Hospital, was appointed. Thus Leeds was the second dental school in the United Kingdom to create a Chair in Clinical Dentistry.³⁴

The work of both the Branch and its Sections had changed considerably over the years, and this meant that many of the original rules were now out of date. The Hull and East Yorkshire Section led the way, modifying theirs in 1930 on their return to the British Dental Association. Branch rules were changed in 1931 to allow the secretary of the Council of the Yorkshire Branch to call a meeting, rather than the president, and the period of notice required

before a meeting could be called was shortened. The earliest Section, the Leeds and District Section, formulated new byelaws in 1932.

Cyril Oliver, Reg Oliver's brother, was co-opted on to the Insurance Acts Committee in 1930, and he was among the first to be elected to the Joint Advisory Dental Committee when it was formed in 1932.

John Macrae had first been appointed Honorary Council Secretary of the Yorkshire Branch in 1922, and he had taken on the joint role of both Branch and Council Secretary in 1927. His membership of the Representative Board continued, and in 1933 he was elected to the Council of the Association.

As 1932 drew to a close he decided to resign as Branch Secretary, and members presented him with a gold watch. W.S. (Bill) Brittan took over the duties of Honorary Branch Secretary and Sydney Sanderson became the Honorary General Secretary. Both came from Hull. Bill Brittan was born in Hull in 1898, the only son of a vicar. He served in the artillery during the First World War, and on demobilization he decided to become a dentist. He qualified with LDS from Guy's Hospital and returned to Hull. At this time membership of the British Dental Association was by election from local colleagues. George Webb, in a personal communication, relates how Bill was elected:

I well remember Bill Brittan being kept in a draughty corridor of Fisher's surgery in Pryme Street [Hull] whilst we of the committee deliberated on his merits. Usually the vetting process took about two minutes, but we kept the victim waiting about ten minutes. Thereby he was made to realise the serious step he was taking and how fortunate he would be to associate with brother practitioners of such great ability and professional purity as we were supposed to be.³⁵

He was accepted and became active in both Branch and national dental affairs.

The Scarborough Section is Formed

In 1934 a Mr Wardill of Bridlington resigned from the British Dental Association. In his letter of resignation to headquarters he complained that his home was too far away from meeting venues of either the Branch or the Sections.

The letter was passed on to the Branch Council, which decided to establish a Scarborough Section. The President of the Branch and its two honorary secretaries went to meet Scarborough colleagues in Scarborough on

34 A.N. Shimmin, *The University of Leeds: The First Half Century* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1954), p. 185.

35 Webb.

6 April 1935. The formation of this fourth Section of the Branch was affirmed, draft rules were drawn up at the same meeting and the Representative Board sanctioned both the Section and its rules.

In the same year that Mr Wardill wrote his letter Stephen Hey left Yorkshire for southern England. His influence on both the Branch and the Leeds Dental School had been profound. From the time of its formation in 1919 Stephen Hey had been the Honorary Treasurer and a representative on the Board of the Association, becoming its President in 1924 to 1925. He had been both a teacher and a Warden of the Dental School and had been influential in its development. During his period as Honorary Treasurer he oversaw the development of grants to aid the Branch and Sections. The Hull and East Yorkshire Section received a grant of £3 in 1931, and Leeds followed a year later. By 1933 a grant of £3 from the Branch to each Section was routine, and an additional grant of £3 was paid from 1934 if a Section had a joint meeting with the Branch in its area.

Three organised associations of dentists existed in Yorkshire in the 1930s, the Incorporated Dental Society, the Public Dental Service Association and the BDA. In 1932 the Secretary of the Public Dental Service Association thought it would be of benefit if a small committee could be established to represent all three groups. The Branch Council agreed to this and John Macrae and Reg Oliver were delegated to it on the clear understanding that the committee would be a liaison body with no executive power. In 1933 there was talk of amalgamating the three organisations, but the national Council of the British Dental Association was opposed to this, a view endorsed by the Yorkshire Branch Council.

In 1934 the Branch was honoured when the University College of Hull asked it to provide a nominee to serve on the Court of the College. George Webb was appointed, and he continued after the College became a University in its own right following the Second World War. George served until 1963, when his place was taken by Alexander Smith. When Alex retired in 1977 Derek Cowley was appointed, and he continues to hold the post to this day.

Although the dental department of the Royal Hospital had expanded in 1928, all teaching was carried out by part-time lecturers until 1933. There was much discussion about the need for a whole-time post and, in October 1935, G.L. (Laurie) Roberts was appointed.³⁶ He was well known to Yorkshire members as a lecturer at the Leeds Dental School, and they were especially pleased to welcome him to the second dental professorial post in the county. Honour of a different kind was to be granted to another member in

1935. Percy Leigh became Lord Mayor elect of Leeds. Percy had been a keen member of the Association since 1900. He had accompanied Tom Gaddes to inaugurate the Hull and East Yorkshire Section in 1905, the same year in which he was appointed an honorary dental surgeon to the new Leeds Dental School. He had been elected President of the Yorkshire Branch in 1922, now he was to hold public office.

Members of the Hull and East Yorkshire Section were very active in Association affairs, and Percy Leigh's year as Lord Mayor coincided with Cyril Oliver from Hull being elected Chairman of the National Insurance Acts Committee.

Despite the fact that the Branch was now well established, it had no presidential badge. Discussions had taken place in 1923, but nothing had been done about it. In 1928 members had examined a number of designs, but the matter was left in abeyance.

It was not until December 1937 that the need for a badge of office was thought to be necessary, and a further examination of possible designs led to approval at Association headquarters of the final choice. The new badge was received in September 1938 at a cost of £16 10s. It was formally presented by the Secretary of the British Dental Association, Mr W.G. Senior, at the annual meeting held a month later when George Webb was installed as President of the Branch. This was the last annual general meeting for seven years due to the outbreak of the second world war, and George Webb, whose presidency of the former Hull and District Society of Dental Surgeons had never officially ended, now found himself holding a seven year Presidency of the Yorkshire Branch.

War did not, however, end Branch activities. In March 1941, a meeting addressed by R.G. Heegard Warner, Chairman of the War Council, and W.G. Senior, Secretary of the Association, was held at the Royal Station Hotel, York to inform members of the 'latest intelligence'. The Association's Council became the 'War Council' from 1939 to 1943.

In November 1941 a meeting of the Scarborough Section was addressed by member Edwin Priestley on the subject of a state dental service. The Beveridge Committee was sitting to formulate a form of national health service in which dentistry might or might not be included. The Archbishop of York, William Temple, introduced the term 'Welfare State' into the English language at this time.³⁷

Reg Oliver had been a member of the Representative Board of the British Dental Association since 1930, but as 1943 drew to a close he decided to

36 Chapman, p. 367.

37 P.Gregg, *The Welfare State* (London: Harrop, 1967), p. 4.

retire from it. John Macrae and Percy Cocker were elected to serve on the new Board of 1944. John became the Vice Chairman of the Board, and Percy was elected to a sub-committee to study the implications for dentistry of the *Interim Teviot Report*.³⁸

Both Bill Brittan and Sydney Sanderson relinquished their posts of Branch and Council Secretaries in 1943, and John Osborne took on the dual secretarial role. John had been appointed the first full-time lecturer at the Sheffield Dental School in 1937. He would become Professor of Prosthetics and (later) Dean at the Birmingham Dental School.

On Saturday 17 June 1944, Percy Cocker addressed a general meeting of the Branch at the Hotel Metropole, Leeds, on the subject of the *Teviot Report*. He detailed negotiations leading up to the production of a Government White Paper on medical services, reporting on the debates that had taken place in both Houses of Parliament. Dental services were the subject of this interim report, and a number of interesting questions were posed to Percy and John Macrae. What compensation would be paid for the loss or closure of private practices? What would be the likely rate of contribution for members of the public? Would there be difficulties in contracting out of the scheme? Would there be problems with dental technicians, in terms of training, standards of work and the length of working hours? The final report in 1946 dealt with dental education and legislation, and recommended self-governance for the dental profession.

Nineteen forty-five opened with an air of confidence, for it seemed that the war would soon come to an end. In February Bill Senior, the Association's secretary, addressed a general meeting of the Branch at the Queen's Hotel, Leeds. He told the 78 members present how dentists could be released from the armed services on compassionate grounds or grounds of civil need. After de-mobilisation, notices in the dental press would inform practitioners of vacancies in private practice, public dentistry and the colonies. Dental officers requiring jobs could apply to the Central Dental War Committee.

He asked civilian dentists in practice to help those returning from the war to build up their practices, and hoped that refresher courses would be available at dental schools. He said that dental equipment might be available from the services.

On 14 April the scientific meeting of the Branch was addressed by its secretary John Osborne on the subject of acrylic teeth and acrylic dentures. Later John was to receive recognition for his pioneering research on acrylic

materials, being appointed Professor of Prosthetics at Birmingham Dental School.

Only three weeks later, on 5 May, a general meeting of the Branch heard W.B. Grandison of Cambridge tell them about the thinking of Government ministers on the forthcoming health service. The meeting was attended by both Professors Talmage Read and Roberts, and a lively debate ensued. Although members received the report, they felt unable to discuss it further until the Government put forward detailed proposals about the conditions of service and remuneration. This the Government was unable to do, for following a re-shuffle on 23 May 1945 an election was held. On 26 July C.R. Attlee, with an overall majority of 182, formed a Labour Government.

The new National Health Service

As the new Government came into office Yorkshire Branch members formulated their own ideas about dentistry in the National Health Service, led in their discussions by Percy Cocker. They believed that the fullest possible provision should be made for the priority classes, and that this basic policy should be carried out with drive. Dental treatment should be included in the NHS for those who were presently covered by insurance, but treatment for those excluded should be deferred for the time being.

Chief Dental Officers should be appointed in all areas to deal with the treatment of priority classes and be directly responsible to the Authority concerned.

An independent committee under the chairmanship of Sir Will Spens was about to consider earnings in the medical profession, and in May 1945 the Branch held a meeting at which the following resolution was passed:

That this meeting desires the creation of an independent Spens committee, similar to the medical Spens committee to enquire into standards of remuneration.

Not only would this committee be formed, but Percy Cocker would become a member of it. Dr John Osborne resigned from the post of honorary secretary of the Branch to take up an appointment at the Birmingham Dental School, and Stewart Bain of Sheffield took over. On 19 January 1946 he arranged his first general meeting at the Queen's Hotel, Leeds, which was addressed by Percy Cocker on the contents of the *Teviot Report*.

Any dental administrative committee should have a high percentage of dentists on it, three quarters of whom should be dental practitioners in active practice. Public Dental Officers would transfer from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Health. Area Dental Officers would be appointed, and the profession should have a say in their election. The Regional Dental Offi-

38 *The Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Dentistry (Chairman: Lord Teviot). Interim Report* (London: HMSO, 1944), Cmd. 6565 1944.

cer service would be eliminated, and substituted by Area Dental Practitioner Committees. Payment for services would be by grant in aid worked on a basis of points. Percy suggested two points for a simple filling and one point for an extraction. Members wondered whether the Government would use the report as a basis for action, or propose an alternative scheme for dentistry. Percy Cocker and John Macrae were members of the Council of the Association, and John was Vice Chairman of the Representative Board. Their dental careers had followed similar lines, for both were taught at the Leeds Dental School as well as being busy general practitioners. John had been appointed Clinical Dental Lecturer in 1928 before becoming Assistant Dental Surgeon to the Leeds General Infirmary. Percy progressed from Lecturer in Dental Surgery in 1935 to Consultant Dental Surgeon to the Leeds Dental School and an external examiner. Percy was instrumental in the formation of the Hospital Dental Services Group.

On 5 and 6 April 1946 the Branch held its annual general meeting in Sheffield, the first one since 1938. George Webb had been in office for seven years and seven months, steering the Branch through the war period and presiding over a number of well-attended meetings. Professor Laurie Roberts was elected president for one year, reverting to normal Branch procedure.

In 1946, the City and Guilds of London Institute drew up a course syllabus for the training of dental technicians, and members of the Yorkshire Branch were concerned about this. Some thought that the emergence of fully trained technicians could interfere with the education of dental surgeons by reducing the time dental students normally spent studying dental mechanics as part of their undergraduate course. Some thought that the very presence of this grade of worker could dilute the profession. Finally Branch members agreed that, rather than any curtailment of time spent on dental mechanics by dental students, more time should be devoted to it, and postgraduate facilities should be made available to up-date those already qualified. It was further proposed by members that dental technicians should be specially registered with the Dental Board of the United Kingdom (predecessor of the General Dental Council). Another concern was the Health Service Act, which was suffering from a large number of amendments, but members were pleased that a Spens Committee would look into dental remuneration and Percy Cocker would be a member of it. The scale of fees problem had raised its head once again.

The Joint Advisory Dental Council had recommended the acceptance of dental letters at the level agreed by the Dental Benefit Council. Percy Cocker was strong in his disapproval of both the scale and the way in which it had been presented. He was supported by his Yorkshire colleagues, who would not accept that the dispute affecting dental treatment was settled. It was only

acceptable as a baseline for negotiators in their efforts to obtain a satisfactory dental service for the insured public.

In October 1946 the Yorkshire Branch had acquired enough members to entitle it to a third seat on the Representative Board of the British Dental Association and W.S. (Bill) Brittan was elected. Bill had served on the Board between 1933 and 1943 in an ex-officio capacity as Branch Secretary. On his return as an elected member he joined the Law and Ethics sub-committee.

Negotiations with the Government on the forthcoming health service were not going well in 1947, and in November Cyril Oliver addressed a meeting of the Branch about the situation. By now Cyril had resigned from both the Insurance Acts Committee and the Joint Advisory Committee to spend more time on the Joint Consultative Committee. This was a committee formed from the Incorporated Dental Society, the Public Dental Service Association and the British Dental Association. It had agreed a programme as a basis for negotiation with the Minister of Health, but the Minister had presented his own ideas on dentistry in the health service. For the first time members heard about prior approval, Local Dental Committees, Dental Service Committees, Executive Councils and the Dental Estimates Board from Cyril. In 1947 Percy Cocker became President of the Branch and members of the Branch Council were quick to recognise the work he had done for the Hospital Dental Surgeons Group. He was actively engaged in the preparation of the memorandum on consultant and specialist practice that formed part of the evidence to the Spens Committee.

A number of his reports to Branch meetings about ongoing negotiations with the Government were published in the *British Dental Journal*.

By November 1947 the Branch was entitled to a fourth member of the Representative Board of the British Dental Association, and Alexander Smith was elected. Any elected member of the Board is automatically a member of the Branch Council nowadays, but this did not apply in 1947 and Alex had to be co-opted on to the Branch Council. In 1946 the Branch had put forward the name of John Macrae for nomination as President of the British Dental Association in 1949. The Representative Board approved, and the Yorkshire Branch was left to decide the venue for the meeting. After some debate Scarborough was chosen, and this meant that the Scarborough Section would have a major part to play in the arrangements.

January 1948 found members of the Branch debating the use of the title 'dental surgeon', because amending legislation was likely to cause its revision. Bill Brittan reported that the Hull Section had held a meeting on the subject and without exception had voted against a common title. The Scarborough Section members, however, had voted to approve a common title. The debate waged to and fro until George Webb proposed that

If in the event of any amendment of the Dentists' Act, the dentists registered as 1921 members apply for the title of dental surgeon, this meeting of the Yorkshire Branch of the British Dental Association is of the opinion that they should not be opposed.

The vote was carried by 24 votes to 19 and this created further debate on whether or not a member of the Representative Board was a representative or a delegate.

This was the start of a very busy year for the Branch, as preparations for the Annual Meeting of the Association in Scarborough in 1949 would coincide with the start of the National Health Service later in 1948.

Members were aware of changes like prior authority to work in health centres, but they still had no knowledge of the Minister's view on grant in aid, a ceiling on earnings for more expensive work, or whether they would have right of appeal against decisions made against dentists as part of the disciplinary procedure.

On 12 March 1948 a general meeting was held at the Queen's Hotel, Leeds, addressed by Duncan Macgregor, a member of the Council of the British Dental Association. Percy Cocker was in the chair and 157 members were present. They were concerned to hear that although the *Beveridge Report* had favoured a comprehensive service, this would not be possible; it could only be a breakdown service. The Government wanted to conduct the NHS dental service from health centres, and this would affect practitioners unfavourably in two ways: it would reduce the volume of work possible, and it would further reduce the capital asset of the individual practice. The Minister was setting himself up as judge and employer in disciplinary matters and he would, in addition, determine the scale of fees.

Members agreed with the Representative Board that these provisions were not in accord with the principles which could provide a satisfactory dental service for the nation. Therefore, they accepted the recommendation of the Board to exercise their right under the Act to refuse to enter the NHS until the terms were amended.

In May 1948 members of the Branch Council were concerned that deliberations on remuneration were being conducted elsewhere. They approved the following resolution, which received support at British Dental Association headquarters:

The Council of the Yorkshire Branch views with grave disquiet the position relating to remuneration in the health service envisaged in a letter from the members of the Remuneration Committee [to the *British Dental Journal*] and hastens to inform the Council of the Association and the members of the Remuneration Committee of its unanimous opinion that it is essential to keep members informed of the progress of

the negotiations and to afford the Association an opportunity to express its opinion before the acceptance, on its behalf, of any form and/or amount of remuneration.

The Branch Council had a duty to inform members about the progress in negotiations, and meetings were held in Hull on 15 June, in Leeds on 16 June and in Sheffield on 18 June. On 19 June, an extraordinary meeting of the British Dental Association took place before the Representative Board met on the following day. Things had moved on since the meeting in March, for the Minister now said that he had no intention of compelling health centres upon the dental profession. Furthermore, he agreed a most attractive scale of fees. So it was that Yorkshire Branch Council members decided that the service would be acceptable if remuneration was found to be adequate.

The day appointed for the start of the NHS was 5 July 1948, and after three months most dentists had joined the scheme (Bill Brittan never joined it). Professor Talmage Reed was asked to set up a panel of dentists in the Leeds and district area to investigate complaints made against practitioners by patients, and Professor Roberts was asked to do the same in Sheffield. The Branch Council was asked to nominate two members by the Ministry to serve on advisory committees, and J.P.G. Vallow and F. Brook were proposed.

Annual Meeting Arrangements

Responsibility for arrangements for the annual meeting of the British Dental Association to be held in 1949 rested with the Yorkshire Branch Council, and this meant that it was necessary to form a number of committees. The Organising Committee was to be chaired by Edwin Priestley with Stewart Bain and Iain Macmillan as honorary secretaries. D.S. Atkinson was elected chairman, and K. Barker as honorary secretary, of the Accommodation Committee, while the Finance Committee was chaired by G.H. Webb with Alex Smith as its honorary secretary.

The Demonstration Committee was left in the capable hands of Professor Roberts, assisted by Ronald Rastall, and Messrs Pickup and Macmillan looked after the Entertainment Committee. R. Morgan and R.C. Morrison were in charge of the golf competition, and Mrs Priestley was elected to chair the Ladies Committee assisted by Mrs Macmillan. The Mayor of Scarborough, the local Member of Parliament, and the Vice Chancellors and Deans of Medicine of both Leeds and Sheffield Universities were to be invited as guests to the dinner to be held during the period of the annual meeting. Being President Elect made John Macrae an ex-officio member of the Representative Board, and created a vacancy that was filled by F. Brook. There were some difficult problems, not the least of which was an appeal for petrol to allow members to attend the annual meeting. The petroleum officer needed to know the quantity of petrol that would be required in each case.

In September 1948, the Council of the British Dental Association approved the formation of the Hospitals Group, and Percy Cocker was appointed its President. Two further honours came his way in the same year: recognition for his work on the Spens Committee and election to Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

John Macrae, now a Vice President of the Association, was also elected a Fellow, and Professor Roberts received the FRCS.

In December 1948 the Minister of Health announced that, since some dentists had exceeded the net income originally recommended by the Spens Committee, he would undertake a full review. In the meantime, fees would be reduced by a half as soon as a dentist's gross income exceeded £4800. In May 1949, he amended the regulations to reduce the scale in respect of work undertaken after 31 May that year. He said that 59 per cent of practitioners were earning more than they should be, 1066 were grossing more than £6000 and 333 were receiving more than £8400.³⁹

The British Dental Association had different figures. Only half the dentists in the Health Service had been considered, two thirds of the profession were earning either the figure recommended by the Spens Committee or less and cuts would reduce their income below that originally approved. Remuneration by a fixed minimum scale could never provide a satisfactory service.⁴⁰

The annual meeting of the Association was held in Scarborough and, on Tuesday 21 June 1949, at the Olympia on the Foreshore Road, John Macrae was installed as President. In his inaugural speech he stressed the need for change in the status of dental teachers, and said of the new National Health Service:

An attempt to continue the National Health Service in its present form must, in my view, lead ultimately to disaster. It will inevitably result in an increase rather than a diminution in the cost of the scheme and in the creation of a frustrated, suspicious and discontented profession.

Prophetic words.

The annual general meeting of 1949 was pronounced a great success, and the Yorkshire Branch received many complimentary letters. Tributes

39 *Keesings Contemporary Archives* (Bristol: Keesing Publications Ltd., 1949), 10076a (25 June-2 July).

40 *Ibid.*

were paid to the organising committee and Branch members expressed the view that the Scarborough Section had made the occasion a successful and happy one. The Demonstrations Committee had done well, and financial arrangements had been so expertly arranged that George Webb was able to report a profit of £235. It was agreed that this should go to the Benevolent Fund of the British Dental Association and a cheque for £250 was sent to the Fund. The Yorkshire Branch could now turn to the next matter in hand, the amalgamation of the Public Dental Service Association, the Incorporated Dental Society and the British Dental Association.

THE FIFTIES

The Public Dental Service Association, the Incorporated Dental Society and the British Dental Association had existed side by side for many years. With the advent of the National Health Service their separate reasons for existence were no longer apparent; indeed the dental profession required unity in order to argue successfully on its, and the public's, behalf. There had been formal and informal contacts with all three organisations for a long time, but the Yorkshire Branch had followed Association policy in maintaining its own separateness. In 1932, the local secretary of the Public Dental Service Association had asked for a small committee to be formed to represent the interests of the three groups and this had been set up, but it was merely a liaison body. The arrival of the NHS had compelled a merger, and so the PDSA and the IDS agreed to amalgamate with the British Dental Association. The life of the next Representative Board of the British Dental Association would reflect this change. The Branch Council met on 10 July 1949, and was told that a copy of the draft document about amalgamating the three organisations would be sent to every BDA member. If the issue were to go to an extraordinary general meeting then a majority of 75 per cent to approve would be required. A sub-committee of the Branch Council was set up and Bill Brittan, Percy Cocker, Sidney Sanderson and Iain Macmillan were asked to 'enquire into the question and effect' of the proposed amalgamation of the three bodies in the Branch area, and to consider revision of the Branch rules and standing orders should this be approved.

When the Yorkshire Branch Council met in September 1949, the sub-committee reported that some revision of the Branch rules would be necessary prior to amalgamation of the three organisations to align them with the British Dental Association's articles. Amalgamation would add a further 392 members to the Yorkshire Branch from the other societies. There would be an extraordinary general meeting in London to discuss amalgamation, and Bill

Brittan urged all members to attend. If approval followed from this meeting, then there would be an interim Representative Board which would meet in January 1950 and would have a life of two years. Bill Brittan was authorised to set up a Branch sub-committee with no more than four members from each organisation to ensure a smooth transition in Yorkshire.

The Minister introduced a 20 per cent cut in fees in June 1949 and reported that there would be a further 10 per cent cut in 1950. In June 1949 a special meeting was held to protest at the Minister's action, which penalised the good dentist. The discontent rumbled on into October of 1949, when Bill Brittan was installed as President of the Branch at a meeting in Hull.

The annual meeting of the British Dental Association was held in Birmingham in 1950, when John Macrae handed over the reins of presidential office to Harry T. Roper-Hall. In his valedictory address John Macrae reported on his busy year. He had seen the amalgamation of all three dental organisations into one, the British Dental Association. He had unveiled a memorial tablet to those members of the Association who were killed in action during the recent war, and he had received a portrait of Bryan Wood on behalf of the Association. On the political front, he was not in favour of introducing the New Zealand scheme for the employment of dental auxiliaries into the United Kingdom. However, the Whitley Council scheme, which would determine the salaries of public dental officers, seemed satisfactory.

In October 1950 Yorkshire members were saddened to hear of the deaths of two former stalwarts, Robert Hill and H.J. Morris. Robert Hill was a York dentist who suddenly found himself president of the Branch on the resignation of Reg Oliver from the Association in 1927. H.J. Morris's first meeting took place on 1 October 1904, when Yorkshire was part of the Midland Counties Branch. He deputised as honorary secretary when W.J. Law was away treating British troops. In 1920 he became a representative on the National Dental Service Committee, and he served for a time on the Representative Board of the British Dental Association. He was elected President of the Branch in 1923, when the annual meeting was held in his hometown of Sheffield, and he continued to attend meetings throughout the 1930s and 1940s, becoming a life member of the Association in 1947.

A new Branch rule came into operation as 1950 drew to a close. Bill Brittan, who had retired from being the Branch President in October 1950, found himself once more chairing meetings of the Branch as he became its first elected Chairman. Stewart Bain, the new President, no longer had to fulfil this presidential role. On 9 September 1951 the Branch's Executive Committee approved an honorarium of £20 to be paid to the Branch Secretary on 1 January each year and three days later, on 12 September, the Minister of

Health laid the foundation stone of the Charles Clifford Dental Hospital in Sheffield.⁴¹

The 10 per cent cut in earnings that had been implemented in 1950 caused much anger in the dental profession, and the Yorkshire Branch Council sent a resolution to British Dental Association headquarters:

That in view of the rapidly increasing cost of commodities and of living in general, this meeting requires the restitution of the scale of fees before the 10 per cent cut imposed by statutory instrument No. 666 on 1 May 1950.

Branch members further sought approval to a statement that if economies were necessary they should be directed towards those dentists in receipt of incomes that exceed the norm, but this clashed with the Association's policy to reject a sliding scale principle.

On 3 June 1951 the Branch Executive Committee met to hear a report from R. Morgan that the General Dental Services Committee had been formed following the disbandment of the Remuneration and Health Act Committees.

On 13 October 1951 Robert Morgan became President of the Branch, and towards the end of the year he stood as a candidate for election to the Representative Board of the British Dental Association. He was successful along with W.S. Brittan, F. Brook, J.P. Cocker and S. Bain, while J.M. Macrae, as Vice President of the Association, was an ex-officio Board member. Bill Brittan and R. Morgan were elected to Council of the Association at the Board's first meeting. R. Morgan and A. Smith were elected centrally to the newly formed General Dental Services Committee, and Messrs Vallow and Ridler were elected to it by their Local Dental Committees. In June 1952 Bill Brittan was elected Chairman of Council of the British Dental Association, and Stewart Bain became his Vice Chairman. The early 1950s found members of the Yorkshire Branch holding influential offices in the Association nationally.

The silver Turton Cup for golf had disappeared, and Stewart Bain with Ronnie Rastall were asked to find a replacement. This they were able to do at a cost, in 1951, of £9 10s.

Postgraduate courses are an essential part of continuing education, but the Minister of Health had shown little interest in funding these. As a consequence there was talk of mass action by the dental profession to secure postgraduate education.

Messrs Cocker, Brook and Rastall were asked to look into the problem and they established a postgraduate refresher course committee which, it was

41 Chapman, p. 428.

thought, would eventually give way to two committees, one for each of the two dental schools.

The Yorkshire Branch – along with other organisations – was asked to provide nominations for membership of two regional boards and 18 hospital management committees within the Yorkshire area. Names to provide a panel of dentists willing to serve on NHS disciplinary committees was now a regular feature of Branch Council activities.

When the Branch Council met in February 1953 members heard of the death of A.K. Penney and A.A. Matthews. A.A. Matthews had been a life member of the Association for 21 years, and he had played a major role in the early history of dentistry in Yorkshire. He was originally elected to the Council of the Midland Counties Branch at a meeting in Newcastle in 1894, and had been one of the first members of the Leeds Section when it was formed in 1896. He became a member of the Council of the North Midland Branch on its formation and, in 1914, he was elected its President. He became a Vice President when the new Yorkshire Branch was formed in 1919.

Todmorden, A Place Too Far

Todmorden lies four miles west of Hebden Bridge and some ten miles west of Halifax. Thus it is at the extreme edge of Yorkshire. Dentists in Todmorden and the surrounding area found it difficult to attend meetings both of the Yorkshire Branch and their local Leeds and District Section. When the Yorkshire Branch Council met on 15 November 1953 it was agreed that the boundary should be changed. This meant that Todmorden now found itself in the East Lancs. and East Cheshire Branch. It was a sensible decision, but one not greeted with universal acclaim as Todmorden folk thought of themselves as Yorkshiremen. Moreover it meant ceding territory to the Lancastrians!

Men of Influence

The appointment of Alderman F. Wright of York to the management committee of the Executive Councils Association was greeted with pleasure by members of the Yorkshire Branch who, in 1954 had no fewer than three of their Representative Board members on the Council of the British Dental Association, Messrs Cocker, Morgan and Brittan. In October 1954 they were re-elected to the Board along with F. Brook and Ronnie Rastall. When the new Board met Percy Cocker was elected Vice Chairman of the Council, and this created a further vacancy which was filled by Alex Smith. In 1957 the new Dentists' Act became law and there were elected vacancies on the General Dental Council for 11 dentists. Percy Cocker was one of those elected, and he continued to serve on it for many years.

Similar successes occurred in 1957, for no sooner were elections to the Board completed, but two further vacancies arose on the election of Bill Brittan to Vice Chairman of the Board and the re-election of Percy Cocker to Vice Chairman of the Council of the Association. Both were filled in 1958 when Dick Morgan and Alex Smith were elected. Frank Brook decided to retire from the Board shortly after his election to it, and Gerry Holden replaced him. In May 1958 Bill Brittan was co-opted by members to the Benevolent Fund Management Committee, and Percy Cocker was made a Vice President of the Association.

By 1958 each Section of the Yorkshire Branch had a chairman's badge of office, but there was some confusion about when these should be worn. It was agreed that the chairman should wear his badge at official Section functions, when representing the dental profession at other functions and at the annual meeting of the Branch providing the Branch President was already wearing his badge of office. Geoffrey Eaton Smith was the Branch Honorary Secretary in 1958, and he proposed that every Branch president should be presented with a plaque of the British Dental Association on his retirement from office. His suggestion was accepted, and it has brought much pleasure to retiring presidents and some income for the Benevolent Fund of the British Dental Association.

The annual meeting of the Yorkshire Branch took place at the Craiglands Hotel, Ilkley, on 19 October 1958, and J. Cameron Scales was installed as Branch President. Bill Brittan relinquished the post of Chairman of the Branch Council, and members were delighted to hear that Percy Cocker's nomination as President of the Association in 1961 had been approved. The Branch would be involved once more in arrangements for another Annual General Meeting of the Association in three year's time.

In October 1954 members of the Branch Council were saddened to hear of the death of Ranulph Hunter of Scarborough. He had been President of the Yorkshire Branch in 1929/30, when his diplomacy and leadership had been crucial in bringing the Hull and East Yorkshire Section back into the fold. As a member of the Representative Board, his support of Branch resolutions against any reduction in the scale of fees had been much appreciated by members. His son, Geoffrey Brocas Hunter continued to support the Branch, and was its President in 1962. Another of the Branch's former loyal servants died in 1957. Walter Marston was one of the original members of the Leeds Dispensary, and he later became Vice President of the Yorkshire Branch in 1921. In 1928 he was elected President of the Branch in the same year that Charles Rippon was President of the British Dental Association, and in 1944 he was elected to life membership of the BDA.

Pilkington and a President

The 1950s were difficult years for members of the Yorkshire Branch who had, like their colleagues in other parts of the country, seen average gross annual earnings of £4300 fall to £3000 in 1952/53 following the introduction of charges payable by the patient. As one member described in the *British Dental Journal*:

The cost of new materials has gone up. Other bodies have asked for more pay and received it, but we in the dental profession, not only do we lack a strong society to do things for us in the way, but we have to take a 10 per cent cut and like it...⁴²

Mr Justice Dankwerts had recommended an increase for betterment award for family doctors, and dentists hoped to receive similar consideration. On 31 March 1952 a deputation from the British Dental Association was received by H.F.C. Crookshank, the Minister of Health, to discuss remuneration. The Minister said that all matters must relate to earnings of the average dentist and the BDA had failed to produce convincing evidence to change his view. Nothing the delegation could do would detract the Minister from this mythical average dentist, but it was a difficulty not well appreciated by the profession at the time.

In 1953 Iain Macleod became the Minister of Health, and he appointed the Guillebaud Committee to look into the cost of the Health Service. The architect of the NHS, Aneurin Bevan, told the House of Commons that the cost of dental treatment, even before the imposition of patients' charges was falling. This was in marked contrast to the increasing cost of pharmaceutical products.⁴³ The former Minister had consistently refused to accept the evidence of a fall in the amount of dental treatment when it had been presented to him by the British Dental Association in 1950!

As the 1950s wore on, doctors and dentists became increasingly dismayed at a system that rewarded enthusiasm and high standards with cuts in earnings when the total amount of funding set aside by the Government (the global sum) to cover costs was in danger of being exceeded. Both professions had found their levels of income fluctuating with the fortunes of the national economy, and their dismay had become manifest.

42 J.Davidson, letter, *Brit.Dent.J.* 92(1952), 7.

43 *Keesings Contemporary Archives*, 12941 (23-30 May).

The Royal Commission

In 1957 the Government decided to set up a Royal Commission to consider methods of payment under the chairmanship of Sir Harry Pilkington. When the Branch Council met in November 1958 Percy Cocker told members that the British Dental Association had submitted evidence to it. It was thought that the Commission would report in about 18 months. The Sheffield Section was concerned about the salaries of dental technicians, and a meeting of the Yorkshire Branch Council in February 1959 accepted a motion from their members for reference to headquarters:

The BDA should take steps to press for the linking of accepted qualifications with grading and salary structure of technicians in future Whitley Council and National Joint Council agreements.

It was duly noted by the National Joint Council for the Craft of Dental Technicians.

When John Macrae had been elected President of the Association in 1949 the Yorkshire Branch had been actively engaged in NHS problems, as well as making arrangements for the annual meeting. History was repeating itself in 1960 as the Branch prepared for its next presidential event. Members were dismayed at the way in which the Royal Commission was referring to the average general dental practitioner. Rightly or wrongly, they thought that the Commission's attitude was slighting, and in November 1960 the Branch Council members called a general meeting at the Masonic Hall, Leeds. Tom Jason Wood, President of the Branch, took the chair and members were addressed by Percy Cocker and Lionel Balding, the Association's Chairman of Council. Negotiations with the Royal Commission had broken down over the concept of the average dentist.

Unless matters improved, the profession might need to take some action when the Royal Commission presented its final report.

As predicted by Percy Cocker, 1961 saw the Pilkington Committee present its report. The Branch Council organised a general meeting addressed once more by Percy Cocker, but with J.N. Peacock, Secretary of the British Dental Association, as a second speaker. Once more it was held at the Masonic Hall, Leeds and 187 members attended.

The Commission proposed an increase for hospital doctors and dentists incorporated in a package deal embracing general dental practitioners. The Report argued that new techniques had done much to improve earnings in general dental practice. High-speed equipment meant that more work could be done in less time. The income of the average dentist was now £2500, but the profession was being subject to cuts in earnings when it collectively exceeded

a total sum allowed in any one year. This situation should be avoided in the future.

A dental rates study group should be formed, comprising members of the dental profession and representatives of the health department under an independent chairman. The group would consider hours of work, the time taken to carry out various treatments and the likely increase in productivity. From this information it would be able to produce a scale of fees that would ensure that the dental practitioner achieved a target net income. This would be determined by another committee, the Review Body, which would decide earnings of doctors and dentists. It would meet every three years, receiving memoranda from the British Medical Association, the British Dental Association and the Health Department. There was a lively debate among members at the meeting. Certainly the Review Body would end the present system of negotiating direct with the Government whereby a figure for gross earnings would be agreed, announced in the House of Commons and later reduced because general dental practitioners overall had exceeded the Government's dental budget.

The Branch meeting ended with the motion:

With reluctance this meeting agrees that the Government's offer of a package deal in regard to the report of the Royal Commission is accepted.

There were 159 votes in favour of the motion, 19 against and nine members abstained.

Presidential Preparations

Percy Cocker chose Harrogate as the venue for his forthcoming presidential meeting in 1961. Once again the Yorkshire Branch was involved in the arrangements for the national meeting, and the usual committees were formed two years in advance. The Organising Committee was led by Alex Smith and Gerry Holden, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Branch Council. The Finance Committee consisted of the Branch Honorary Treasurer, Edwin Priestley, in the chair, with George Webb as his vice chairman. They were assisted by A.G. Olver, G.H. King, H.C. Morgan and J. Batty. J. Cameron Scales was in charge of the Entertainment Committee, with Ken Palmer as vice chairman and Messrs Macmillan, Morrison, Woollass, Bain and Brittan in support. Professors Hopper and Roberts led the Demonstrations Committee, along with Messrs Heylings, Rastall, Godfrey, Southam, Townend and Davidson. Stephen Fell chaired the golf committee, with Ken Palmer as his deputy and Messrs Morrison, Drake, Bolsover, Scales and Murgatroyd in support. Mrs Cocker chaired the Ladies sub-committee, and Mesdames

Priestley, Smith, Scales, McClean, Brittan, Palmer, Macmillan, Webb, Ratcliffe, Morrison, Woollass, Holden, Wood and Eaton-Smith, together with Miss Joan Falconer and Miss Sclare, completed the group. Organising accommodation was left in the hands of Cameron Scales and John McClean.

In February 1960 an appeal was launched for £1000 to cover the cost of a reception for those attending the Association's annual meeting. The Golf Committee hoped to organise two competitions, one for the men at the Pannel course and one for the ladies at Starbeck.

A new member of the Leeds Dental School would be involved in preparations, for the summer had seen the retirement of Professor Talmage Read. As its first Professor, Talmage Read had done much to see the development of the School both academically and structurally. Professor Freddie Hopper replaced him as head of the Dental School, but not as Warden for this job had disappeared. Amid the enthusiastic preparations for the next year's annual meeting of the British Dental Association, there was some sad news in July 1960. Stephen Hey had died.

Stephen was one of the original members of the Leeds Dental School, both as a lecturer and its Warden. He had played an active part in the launch of the Yorkshire Branch and its subsequent expansion. Although he had left Yorkshire in 1934 to live in retirement in southern England, he had kept in touch with his Yorkshire colleagues. Only two years before his death, members were told of his gift of £500 to the Benevolent Fund. Stephen's death represented the end of an era in Yorkshire dentistry.

Organising the annual meeting of the British Dental Association had so concentrated the minds of Yorkshire Branch members that arrangements of the Branch's annual meeting were left in confusion. It was decided that the President Elect and his/her Section Committee should look after this Branch event. It would be up to them to arrange a golf competition and dinner dance. Costs of the business meetings would be paid for by the Branch. All was in place and a successful meeting was held at the Craiglands Hotel, Ilkley, in October 1960.

During the course of this meeting 'Dick Morgan' collapsed. Dick had been President of the Branch in 1951/52, and had been a member of the Representative Board of the British Dental Association since 1952. He was in hospital as the Board elected him Vice President of the Association and, in May 1961, his vice presidential badge was presented to him at his hospital bedside.

As the summer approached, Yorkshire dentists looked forward to hosting the British Dental Association's annual conference. President Elect, Percy Cocker, was granted the honorary degree of Master of Dental Surgery (MChD) by the University of Leeds for sterling work on behalf of the profes-

sion. Somehow he was able to combine his duties as external examiner to the Universities of Sheffield and Durham with a general practice, a hospital practice and committee work at national level. Having been elected to the General Dental Council in 1956, he soon found himself representing the profession on the Spens, Teviot, McNair and Guillebaud Committees. He was one of the original founders of the Hospitals Group and, at the time of his presidential inauguration, was a vice president of the Association. Percy had always shown a keen interest in history, and it was not surprising that this became the theme of his inaugural address when he was elected the 75th President of the Association.⁴⁴

Another annual meeting of the Association had passed off successfully in Yorkshire and, as in 1949, some money remained unspent from the contributions members had made towards funding it. Thus £203 5s. 7d. was sent to the Benevolent Fund.

Bill Brittan had been re-elected Vice Chairman of the Representative Board as it commenced its new triennium in 1961 and this created a Branch vacancy, filled by Geoff Woollass of the Sheffield Section.

At the annual meeting of the Branch in October 1961, Geoffrey Eaton-Smith and J.H. Ratcliffe resigned from their joint secretarial roles and they were replaced by Geoffrey Woollass who, as a newly promoted ex-officio member of the Representative Board, relinquished his elected seat to E. Kenneth Palmer. Edwin Priestley resigned from the Honorary Treasurer's post, and he was replaced by J. Neville Drake. Once more the lack of training facilities for dental technicians in the county became a topic of conversation at the annual meeting. Some local training was possible in both the Leeds and Sheffield areas and, although facilities were available at the Hull Technical College, no organised course had been set up.

In May 1962 members were saddened to hear of the death of Dick Morgan, who only a year before had been made a vice president of the Association. He had represented the Branch on the Board of the Association up to the time of his collapse in October 1960. He had been President of the Branch in 1951, and had made a valuable contribution to dental matters as a member of the Council of the Association.

Percy Cocker's period as President of the Association came to an end at the annual conference in 1962, which was held in Nottingham. Bill Brittan was made a vice president at the same meeting, and Yorkshire members won three golf trophies. Later in the same year, Bill became Chairman of the

Benevolent Fund and Alex Smith was elected to the Association's Finance Committee.

The Review Body was formed under the chairmanship of Lord Kindersley, and a newly formed Dental Rates Study Group was arranging a new scale of fees. This was the new 'package deal'. Would it succeed in the sixties?

THE SIXTIES

In November 1962 Alex Smith was worried about a failure of communication which seemed to be adversely affecting the British Dental Association, and Percy Cocker elaborated on this theme at a meeting of the Branch Council held in January 1963. Many members had told him that in their view the British Dental Association no longer represented the profession. There were special committees to further the aims of public dental officers, consultants, teachers and research workers, but there was no special group to truly represent general dental practitioners other than the General Dental Services Committee. Advisory services were inadequate and negotiation machinery was imperfect. There was little delegation of responsibility, and this meant that decisions were delayed unnecessarily. There was an absence of forward thinking due to a constant return to office of the 'old gang'. There was a lack of dissemination of knowledge, and time was wasted at both Representative Board and Council of the Association on detail. Problems were compounded by the Dental Rates Study Group, whose members were finding it difficult to establish a scale of fees that was universally satisfying. Its members were encountering problems in defining who or what was an average dentist. The dental profession was experiencing a time of radical change, and Percy Cocker was concerned about the criticism being levelled at the British Dental Association. Kenneth Palmer expressed the view that the last 15 years since the inception of the NHS had brought about a change in the functions and activities of the British Dental Association. He, for one, had seen some fragmentation occurring within the profession.

Some members of the Representative Board were asking for a dentally qualified assistant secretary in addition to Jack Peacock, and there was a motion before the Board which requested a change in the articles of the Association so that an extraordinary meeting of the Association could be called when a member seeking it had mustered 1000 signatures. Ken Palmer's view was that extraordinary meetings were expensive, and a few members calling enough meetings could bankrupt the Association. Ken agreed that The British Dental Association might well have been slow to respond to problems at this

44 *Brit.Dent.J.*, 110(1961), 413.

time, but was this really due to ineffective leadership? Dentists are independent-minded, ethical people who would never respond to strike action. Therefore the British Dental Association must seek to improve the terms and conditions of its members by reasoned argument. The Government does not always respond to reasoned argument, especially if a positive response is likely to result in a re-assessment of its financial priorities. The Association found itself 'sandwiched' between a difficult Government and an unhappy membership of general dental practitioners, who discovered that more work seemed to lead to less pay. Ken Palmer's view was echoed by members of the Branch Council.

If changes had occurred to the British Dental Association's responsibilities at national level, it was no less true within the Branch. The Branch rules no longer were appropriate to dentistry in the sixties. Bill Brittan and Alex Smith were given the task of bringing them up to date. The first objective was:

Rendering assistance as far as possible in carrying out the Dentists' Act.

This was out of date in 1963. The primary objective now was:

The consideration of subjects affecting the interests of the profession.

Elected members of the Representative Board had a much more important role now than before, and should therefore be ex-officio members of the Yorkshire Branch's Executive Committee. The number elected to the Branch Council should be increased to nine, reflecting an increase in the number of members of the Branch. Three elected members should retire from the Branch Council after three years of service and be ineligible for re-election for one year. The election of three new members at the annual meeting of the Branch would ensure a blend of new thinking with continuity of service. This should bring about a reduction in the number of co-opted members. Clearly an increase would be required in the number of members forming a quorum at Branch Council meetings. All these changes proposed by Bill and Alex to the Branch rules were adopted on 12 October 1963.

Sydney Sanderson and John Macrae were elected to life membership of the Association, and Alex Smith replaced George Webb on the Board of Governors of the University of Hull. From the days of its being a University College, the profession has been honoured by the provision of a seat on the Board of Governors.

Bill Brittan and Percy Cocker remained on the Representative Board ex-officio as vice presidents. There were eight candidates for election to four places on the Representative Board due to take office in 1964. In the ensuing

ballot Ken Palmer, J. Cameron Scales, J. Keith Lockyer and John Swindells were elected. The result was disappointing for Alex Smith, Chairman of Branch Council. Bill Brittan relinquished the post of Vice Chairman of the Board, and he also gave up the Chairmanship of the Membership and Ethics Committee. Cameron Scales was not well, and his doctor advised him to take things easier. As a result he resigned from the Representative Board, to be replaced by Geoffrey V Morrell in November 1964.

The annual general meeting of the Yorkshire Branch in 1964 was held in Hull under the Presidency of 'Bob' Booth. Alex Smith's six-year term as Chairman of the Branch Council was at an end, and he was replaced by Ken Palmer with Gerry Holden continuing as Vice Chairman.

Problems with Pilkington

Members of the profession were finding implementation of the package deal put forward by the Pilkington Royal Commission difficult to operate, so much so that Keith Lockyer had obtained enough signatures to call an extraordinary general meeting of the Branch in 1963. Much was said, but little was achieved. At national level the British Dental Association set up a working party, under the chairmanship of W.R. Tattersall, to consider alternative methods of remuneration that might find approval among both dentists and the Government. Its major recommendation was a change in the system from 'items of service' to payment by capitation. Each dentist would receive a fixed annual sum for every patient on his/her books. The Hull and East Yorkshire Section held a referendum among their members, and the working party's conclusions were rejected – a result later endorsed by the majority of dentists in Yorkshire.

The British Dental Association proposed a new method of financing Branches from headquarters, a float system. At the end of each year a statement would be sent to the finance department claiming the difference in funding due from changes in the Branch membership figures over the year. Members of the Yorkshire Branch cared little for this, and they proposed a budget method which was rejected at headquarters. The new system was implemented during a national membership recruitment drive, which was so successful in Yorkshire that 80 new members joined the Association, many of them young members.

Perhaps Yorkshire Branch members were inwardly glad that their proposal had been rejected. Increased membership coincided with the publication of a new booklet of updated Branch rules: 2000 copies had been printed.

One new rule came into force in October 1965, when three members were to be elected to Branch Council on an annual basis instead of two as before.

Frank Southam proposed a change in the format of the annual general meeting of 1966, when he would be installed as President. Instead of it being an event of two nights and two days, Frank proposed a reduction to one overnight stay. He envisaged a golf meeting on the Friday afternoon, afternoon tea at 4.30 pm, followed by a presidential meeting at 5.30 pm to include both valedictory and inaugural presidential addresses. This would be followed by a Section cocktail reception and dinner dance. Saturday morning arrangements would continue as usual, with a meeting of the Branch Council at 9.30 am followed by the annual general meeting. A coffee break at 10 am would be followed by a clinical meeting, which would conclude proceedings. Although some members were in doubt about the proposed change it was approved and was successful, but was not repeated for some years after. Following Frank's year, the arrangements returned to a two-night function – a cocktail reception on the Friday and a dinner dance on the Saturday – despite difficult times.

The Scarborough Section anticipated a busy 1966, for the annual meeting of the British Dental Association was to be held in their town. Leonard Davey, of the Eastern Counties Branch, had expressed a wish to hold the annual conference there. Members of the Yorkshire Branch were asked to volunteer as stewards for the meeting.

Geoff Woollass resigned from the post of conjoint secretary at the end of 1966 after five years in office. Members paid tribute to his work at a difficult period for the dental profession, and welcomed Geoffrey V. Morrell as the new Branch Secretary. Geoff Woollass continued to represent the Branch on the new Representative Board of 1967, along with J. Keith Lockyer and E. Kenneth Palmer. Geoff Morrell, as Branch Secretary, and Vice Presidents Bill Brittan, Percy Cocker and John Macrae were ex-officio members of the Board. John Macrae had celebrated his diamond wedding the year before.

In June 1967 membership figures of the Branch exceeded 750, and this meant that it was entitled to have a fourth elected representative on the Representative Board. J.P. Smith was elected from the Sheffield Dental School.

The General Dental Council sent Percy Cocker to New Zealand to investigate the possibility of training and employing dental auxiliaries to work in the school dental services. New Zealand had pioneered the scheme and found it successful. Percy, however, was not convinced. On his return he attended a meeting of Branch Council and proposed:

The Board's resolution on the experimental scheme for dental auxiliaries was arrived at with undue haste and is open to misinterpretation. It does not contain a decisive enough statement of BDA policy in this matter.

Although the New Zealand scheme was never adopted, a school for auxiliaries was established and dental therapists, as they became known, were

employed in the school dental services. The therapist school was subsequently closed, but Percy had suffered a partial defeat.

In 1967 Reg Oliver died. He had been a member of the Representative Board for a number of years, had been President of the Branch in 1932, but most of all he had been the rebel who took the Hull and East Yorkshire Section out of the BDA in 1926 over conditions of service.

Reg's death coincided with Hull Section members being offered associate membership by their colleagues in the Hull Medical Society. This resulted from the opening of the new Hull Royal Infirmary to which the Hull Medical Society had contributed. It had had much to do with the development of the postgraduate centre, in which the Society had its own room with bar facilities. When the Hull and East Yorkshire Section of the British Dental Association held meetings there, they were able to partake of bar facilities as members of the Society.

In February 1968 members were shocked to hear of the death of Professor Laurie Roberts. He had attended their Council meeting in November 1967 when in good health. He had been a keen member of the Branch for many years. He had been their first president after the Second World War. Sydney Sanderson died later in the same year. Sydney had been appointed general secretary of the Branch Council in 1933, as Bill Brittan had become its Branch secretary, and had continued in office for ten years. He had a practice in Hull, but retired to Harrogate. Illness had prevented him from being active in Branch affairs from 1963.

In June 1968 Hull members were becoming increasingly concerned about two dental schools which were not teaching general anaesthetics, so much so that they presented a resolution to the Branch Council:

That this Branch Council, having been informed that two dental schools are not complying with the recommendations of the dental curriculum (1963) that instruction should include a course of lectures in local and general anaesthesia and practical experience in their administration under supervision, including the assessment of fitness of patients for general anaesthesia and especially in respect of their practical experience in their administration, requires the Council of the Association to draw the attention of the General Dental Council to this matter and invite their comments.

The resolution was approved and duly sent to BDA headquarters, but it made no difference to the two schools in question.

The annual meeting of the Branch in 1969 took place in Scarborough, when 'Bob' C. Morrison was elected President. On the swirling misty night of Friday 17 October proceedings opened with a cocktail party held in the Scarborough lighthouse. Has a meeting of the British Dental Association ever been held in a lighthouse before? In any event it was a great success.

There would be a new Representative Board in 1970, and the democratic process was well in evidence in Yorkshire for there were no fewer than nine candidates for the four available places. The resulting postal ballot returned E.K. Palmer, J. Cameron Scales, G. Pearson and J.K. Lockyer. Geoffrey Woollass had served the Branch both as an honorary secretary and as an elected Board member, and his failure to be re-elected meant that there was no representative from the Sheffield Section on the Board. This was perhaps the first time that the large Sheffield Section thought about the possibility of forming their own Branch.

CHANGING TIMES, THE SEVENTIES

The annual meeting of the Branch in October 1970 bade farewell to Percy Cocker, who decided to move to Kent on his retirement in order to be nearer to his daughter. Ken Palmer retired from being Chairman of the Branch Council, having served six years, and he was succeeded by Cameron Scales.

Farewell to Old Friends

The Review Body resigned in 1970 because the Government of the day would not accept its findings and wished to refer the question of doctors' and dentists' pay to the Pay Board. This meant a return to the 1950s, a disastrous time for both professions. They had experienced enormous problems when both had negotiated directly with the Government. However there was no time to legislate, as a general election was heralded in June 1970. The outgoing Government was defeated, and the incoming Government re-established the Review Body. It put forth ideas to reform the Health Service based on the establishment of Area Health Authorities.

The development of overseeing Regional Health Authorities would greatly affect the Yorkshire Branch and encourage Sheffield to form its own Branch for the Leeds, Hull and Scarborough Sections would fall within the Yorkshire region, while the Sheffield Section would be incorporated in the Trent Region. Sir Keith Joseph was now Secretary of State for Health and Social Services, and he proposed a change in the method of payment by patients.

Instead of this being a fixed amount, the patient would pay half the cost of treatment unless he or she was a member of the priority classes. Sir Keith's argument was based on the principle that patients who attended regularly for treatment were penalised by a fixed sum method of payment. If half the treatment cost were paid by the patient, then it would be in the patient's

interest to visit the dentist at regular intervals. With a reduction in the voting age to 18 years, Sir Keith thought that 18 year olds who were wage or salary earners should pay patients' charges. This created a problem for the profession as 18 year olds had a lot of dental disease. Having to pay half the cost of dental treatment at a time when they were just starting out at the lowest end of any pay scale would put them off going to the dentist and lay them open to even higher charges at a later date. Furthermore, although they were old enough to vote many did not have a fully permanent dentition, as their wisdom teeth had not yet erupted. Although some members were sympathetic to a half pay system most were opposed to reducing the priority from 21 to 18 years.

The Branch Council met in February 1971 and discussed the problem at length. Sheffield members had met their Members of Parliament to voice their opposition to the proposed changes. They drafted a resolution for discussion by the Branch Council:

The Sheffield and District Section deplores the harmful effects on the dental health of the nation which must result from any increase in charges for dental treatment. If these must be increased on economic grounds then a flat rate increase is preferable to the system proposed by the Government which would pose difficult and time consuming problems. Of primary concern is the drop in age from 21 to 18 years. We therefore urge the British Dental Association to impress upon the Minister that no alteration in the age should be countenanced, and to press for a re-consideration of the new charges system.

The motion was approved by the Branch Council and sent to British Dental Association headquarters. Although the half pay system came into being the Association was told that a reduction in age of the priority classes from 21 to 18 would require separate legislation and this never received parliamentary time for approval.

Membership of the Yorkshire Branch had now reached 806. J. Cameron Scales was its Chairman of Council in 1971 and a member of the Council of the Association. He announced his intention to withdraw from Board affairs at the end of 1972. George Webb was awarded life membership of the British Dental Association in recognition of his sterling work, especially for his role as President of the Branch throughout the war period. Kenneth Palmer also became a life member of the Association. His work as Vice Chairman of the Leeds Executive Council, his period of service as a representative on the Board of the Association, his presidency of the Branch in 1954 and his chairmanship of the Branch Council for six years merited recognition. Like Cameron Scales he too announced his intention to retire from the Representative Board in 1972.

During the days of the Incorporated Dental Society Sheffield had been a section in the Yorkshire Branch, but it held branch status in the IDS. After

amalgamation of both organisations in 1950 it became a large section, which, in 1970, for the first time had no representation on the Representative Board of the British Dental Association. Both reasons might have been sufficient for the Sheffield Section to seek to become a Branch of the BDA in its own right, but it was really the Green Paper on re-organisation of the health service which made such a move inevitable. Sheffield would leave Yorkshire to become part of the Trent Regional Health Authority.

Thus it was not surprising when Sheffield members voiced a wish to achieve branch status when the Yorkshire Branch held its annual meeting in 1972 under the presidency of Professor 'Freddie' Hopper. Freddie had been a co-opted member of the Branch Council for some time. He had been the Chairman of the Leeds and District Section in 1961 and had displayed managerial talents in creating a departmental administrative structure for the Leeds Dental School. The views of the Sheffield members were listened to with some sympathy and it was decided to call an extraordinary meeting of Yorkshire members to discuss the matter.

So it was that on 18 June 1973, in the Littlewood Hall of the Leeds General Infirmary, members gathered to debate 'The interests of the British Dental Association would be better served by the granting of branch status to the Sheffield and District Section'. Professor Hopper took the chair along with the Chairman of the Branch Council, the Branch Secretaries and the Honorary Treasurer. There was much debate, but little dissent and the motion was sent to Headquarters for formal approval by the Representative Board. It was agreed by everyone that contacts between Sheffield and Yorkshire branch members must continue.

One member was missing from the meeting. Bill Brittan had died tragically on 3 June at the age of 75 years. His name has occurred frequently in this narrative, but his interests were not limited to BDA matters.

Although he never joined the NHS scheme Bill Brittan was a founder member of the Hull Executive Council, becoming its Chairman in 1964. He was a devout Anglican, being a member of both the Hull Deanery and the Yorkshire Diocesan Synod. He was devoted to the Marfleet Parish Church in Hull and had been its vicar's warden for many years.

He was a founder member of the Holderness Rotary Club and a member of the Hull Literary and Philosophical Society, becoming its President in 1964.

He had been a member of the committee of management of the Hull Institute for the Deaf and a Past President of the old boys association of his old school, Hymers College.

He had been Chairman of the Hull and East Yorkshire Section of the British Dental Association on three occasions, President of the Yorkshire Branch and its first Chairman of Council. He had served on the Association at

national level as Vice Chairman of the Representative Board for a nine-year period and Chairman of its Membership and Ethics Committee for 10 continuous years. He was Chairman of the Benevolent Fund Management Committee for 17 years, and in 1961 he was elected to Vice Presidency of the British Dental Association. He was a big man with silver grey hair, a deeply resonant voice and a hearty laugh. He and his wife, to whom he was devoted, had no children and her untimely death in a traffic accident on a zebra crossing affected him deeply. When he heard of the Sheffield Section's desire for branch status he expressed a wish that the word 'Yorkshire' should occur somewhere in its title. He might have been disappointed to witness the first break in the Sheffield connection at the extraordinary general meeting, but he would have been pleased to hear that the Sheffield members all agreed to the title 'South Yorkshire Branch', even those living in Worksop and parts of Derbyshire.

Percy Cocker was not present at this extraordinary general meeting. He had retired to Tunbridge Wells some years before to be near his daughter. Nevertheless, he always attended meetings of the Representative Board in his capacity as a Vice President and he was never afraid to express an opinion however unpopular it might be. So it was not only Yorkshire members who were saddened to hear of the death of Percy on 12 December 1975 at the age of 84 years.

He had survived a serious illness before becoming President of the Association in 1961, and members had tended to think that this dapper man with his blue BDA bow tie was immortal. Only the year before his death he had been on a trip to South America. Most of the history of the Yorkshire Branch from the 1920s onwards involves Percy Cocker. Indeed, a sizeable portion of the British Dental Association's history is bound up with Percy's success on the profession's behalf. Apart from being a founder of the Hospitals Group, he was an enthusiastic member of the Lindsay Society. He had made a valuable contribution to the future of dentistry on the Spens Committee in the 1940s and was never afraid to express his views, even if they ran counter to his colleagues.

Some three months after Percy's death Branch members were saddened to hear of the death, on 19 March 1976, of John Munro Macrae. John had been a member of the British Dental Association for 57 years and its national President in 1949. Like Bill Brittan, he had been Vice Chairman of the Representative Board. He was an elected Fellow in Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and combined dental practice in Shipley with a teaching post at the Leeds dental School. Had he lived for a further eight months, he would have celebrated 70 years of marriage.

The New Branch is Formed

On 17 April 1975, a meeting of the Representative Board was told that the proposed rules of the South Yorkshire Branch were now in order, along with the newly amended rules of the Yorkshire Branch. Although the major implication for the parent branch had been a change of boundaries, there was one other factor.

The number of dentists in the Branch was reduced from 820 to 560 with a consequent reduction of one elected place (from four to three) on the Representative board. Sheffield were to have two seats on the Board. On 2 December 1975 the President of the British Dental Association, Robert G. Hunt attended a meeting in Sheffield and, in a simple but moving ceremony, formally inaugurated the new Branch, presenting letters of authority to Professor Paul Bramley.

The meeting was attended by the Chairman of Council of the Yorkshire Branch and its President D.M. Palmer who wished the new Branch well and expressed the hope that the two Branches would maintain contact. Members of both Branches regretted the division after 56 years, but it was recognised as being eminently sensible, especially in view of the new health service boundaries which put Sheffield into a different health region.

In November 1976 E. Kenneth Palmer died, a sad loss to both the Leeds Section and the Yorkshire Branch. Only four years before his death he had been a member of both the Representative Board and the Benevolent fund Management Committee. Both of his sons, Michael and Roger, had become dentists and both held office at both Branch and Section level, Michael in Hull and Roger in Leeds. Both have been Presidents of the Branch, and Roger was its Honorary Treasurer for a number of years.

Fathers who have served the Branch have often been emulated by their children. Tom Falconer was followed by his son Ian and his daughter Joan. Ranulph Hunter was succeeded by his son Geoffrey, and the same can be said of Tom Jason Wood and his son George.

Although H.V. Morrell never became a Branch President, his son Geoffrey was elected President of the Branch in 1981, following valuable service as Branch Honorary Secretary for many years. On his retirement from office he was appointed a Fellow of the British Dental Association⁴⁵.

Although the Branch was reduced to three Sections, the situation did not last long. York members, although they were members of the Leeds and District Section, had long had their own York Dental Society. In 1979 they decided that it would be possible to maintain the Dental Society and form a

BDA Section of their own. Approval of Section rules was granted by the Representative Board, and the new Section came into being in the same year.

POSTSCRIPT

Consideration of events beyond the 1980s does not form part of this present remit. The incorporation of the Lindsey Section into the Branch in 1984, the death of Alex Smith on 1 January 1990, and of Geoffrey Morrell on 4 March 1994, must form part of the history of the next hundred years. The rise to high office of Stuart Robson of York and John Renshaw of Scarborough in the British Dental Association will also give evidence to the continuing importance of the Yorkshire Branch to the Association and to dentistry.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to the late Geoffrey Morrell and the late Percy Cocker for the detailed notes they provided, to Muriel Spencer who assisted in verifying the accuracy of information and who provided a number of obituaries from the BDA library, and to those many dentists who wrote to me with recollections of times past.

45 *Brit.Dent.J.*, 176(1994), 443, Obituary.

APPENDIX A***Life Members of the Yorkshire Branch***

At the Annual Meeting of the British Dental Association held in Cardiff in 1931, the Articles of the Association were altered to allow for the election of any member other than an honorary or temporary member to life membership, provided that he/she had been a member of the Association for a continuous period of at least 25 years. In the beginning only those who had ceased dental practice could be considered, but the rule was changed in 1945 so that practising members could be eligible. In 1949 a further alteration made nominations from the Branches mandatory, and in 1954 a final change stated that only the Council of the Association could have the powers to recommend candidates to the Representative Board. A life member must first be nominated by a Branch to the Council of the Association.

1932	D Saville, A.A. Matthews
1933	J.S. Wallis
1937	Alfred Cocker
1940	G.T. Robinson
1944	W. Marston
1945	R.C. Holt
1946	S.D. Hey
1947	J.S. Barron, H.J. Morris
1948	F.S. Mordaunt
1956	H.J. Hamer
1962	J.P.O. Vallow
1963	S. Sanderson, J.M. Macrae
1966	F. Townend
1970	G.H. Webb
1971	H.B. Harland (posthumous)
1972	E.K. Palmer
1974	A. Smith
1978	R.C. Morrison, J.C. Scales

APPENDIX B***Presidents of the Yorkshire Branch***

1919	C. Rippon
1920-21	C. Rippon

1921-22	A.W. Turton
1922-23	P.T. Leigh
1923-24	H.J. Morris
1924-25	S.D. Hey
1925-26	W.J. Law
1926-27	G.C. Grundy
1927-28	R. Hill
1928-29	W. Marston
1929-30	R.B. Hunter
1930-31	J.W. Mawer
1931-32	H.C. Smedley
1932-33	R.J. Oliver
1933-34	F.G. Mordaunt
1934-35	J.M. Macrae
1935-36	C.H. Oliver
1936-37	R.C. Webster
1937-38	T. Falconer
1938-46	G.H. Webb
1946-47	Professor G.L. Roberts
1947-48	J.P. Cocker
1948-49	E. Priestley
1949-50	W.S. Brittan
1950-51	S. Bain
1951-52	R. Morgan
1952-53	S. Sanderson
1953-54	R.Y. Greenfield
1954-55	E.K. Palmer
1955-56	A. Smith
1956-57	A. Bowler
1957-58	D.B. Atkinson
1958-59	J.C. Scales
1959-60	E.L. Clark
1960-61	T. Jason Wood
1961-62	R. Rastall
1962-63	G.B. Hunter
1963-64	W.A. Scholes
1964-65	R.B. Booth
1965-66	P.S. Barlow
1966-67	F.L. Southam
1967-68	G.L. Woollass
1968-69	G.H. Eaton-Smith

1969-70	R.C.Morrison
1970-71	G.G.P.Holden
1971-72	D.L.Cowley
1972-73	Professor F.E.Hopper
1973-74	R.K.Cole
1974-75	I.T.Falconer
1975-76	D.M.Palmer
1976-77	J.N.Drake
1977-78	D.S.Brooke
1978-79	Professor D.Jackson
1979-80	G.Pearson

APPENDIX C*Honorary Treasurers of the Yorkshire Branch*

1919-24	S.D.Hey
1924-25	G.L.Wilkinson
1925-34	S.D.Hey
1934-56	J.H.Hamer
1956-61	E.Priestley
1961-76	J.N.Drake
1976-08	R.O.Palmer

APPENDIX D*Honorary Secretaries of the Yorkshire Branch*

	Of the Branch	Of the Council
1919-21	W.J.Law	H.A.Mahoney
1921-22	V.C.Burt	H.A.Mahoney
1922-27	V.C.Burt	J.M.Macrae
1927-29	J.M.Macrae was the joint secretary	
1929-33	J.M.Macrae	J.P.Cocker
1933-43	W.S.Brittan	S.Sanderson
1943-45	J.Osborne was the joint secretary	
1945-49	S.Bain was the joint secretary	
1949-50	S.Bain	I.Macmillan

1950-57	I.Macmillan	R.C.Morrison
1957-61	G.H.Eaton-Smith	J.H.Ratcliffe
1961-66	G.L.Woollass was the joint secretary	
1966-	G.V.Morrell	I.T.Falconer

APPENDIX E*Elected Members of the Representative Board*

(Branch Secretaries as ex-officio members of the Board accompanied elected members.)

1919	S.D.Hey, A.W.Turton, H.J.Morris
1921	S.D.Hey, C.Rippon
1924	S.D.Hey, C.Rippon
1927	S.D.Hey, C.Rippon
1930	S.D.Hey, R.J.Oliver
1933	J.M.Macrae, R.J.Oliver
1936	J.M.Macrae, R.J.Oliver, C.H.Oliver co-opted
1939	J.M.Macrae, R.J.Oliver, C.H.Oliver co-opted
1944	J.M.Macrae, J.P.Cocker, C.H.Oliver co-opted
1947	J.M.Macrae, J.P.Cocker, W.S.Brittan
1947	A Smith fills a fourth newly available place
1948	J.M.Macrae becomes ex-officio member, F. Brook elected
1950	W.S.Brittan, J.P.Cocker, F.Brook, A.Smith (the interim Board)
1952	W.S.Brittan, F.Brook, J.P.Cocker, S.Bain, R.Morgan
1955	W.S.Brittan, F.Brook, J.P.Cocker, R.Morgan, R.Rastall
1955	J.P.Cocker becomes ex-officio member A.Smith elected
1958	W.S.Brittan, G.G.P.Holden, J.P.Cocker, R.Morgan, A.Smith
1961	W.S.Brittan, G.G.P.Holden, J.C.Scales, A.Smith
1961	W.S.Brittan becomes ex-officio member G.L.Woollass elected
1961	G.L.Woollass becomes ex-officio member E.K.Palmer elected
1964	J.C.Scales, E.K.Palmer, J.K.Lockyer, J.E.Swindells
1968	Now 758 members a fourth representative seat, J.P.Smith elected
1970	J.C.Scales, E.K.Palmer, J.K.Lockyer, G.Pearson
1973	G.Pearson, R.C.W.Dinsdale, J.K.Lockyer, G.L.Woollass
1976	G.Pearson, I.T.Falconer, J.Wigglesworth
1979	G.Pearson, I.T.Falconer, J.Wigglesworth