

Dr Hugh Brebner MB ChB MD FRCP Glasgow and London



5 June 1921 – 10 September 2017

Dr Hugh Brebner has died aged 96. He was educated at The Gordon Schools Huntly in the nineteen twenties where his Dad was headmaster. He became Dux of the school and later on lifetime Honorary President of the Former Pupils' Association.

Hugh studied to be a doctor in Aberdeen then served in the Royal Army Medical Corps in World War II. He travelled across Europe and India in support of the Army.

After the War he met Dr Cecilia Smiley (Celia) his wife in Kingston Hospital Surrey. The hospital romance, then marriage, between an Aberdeenshire and Manchester couple lasted for sixty five years.

As a young man Hugh passed his MD by writing a thesis on the nucleic content of bone marrow. Hugh was proud of his farming roots and knew his family history going back to the eighteenth century. He inherited from his farming forebears a great respect for the weather, due to legendary Aberdeenshire snowdrifts.

Hugh's medical career progressed from London to Manchester where he worked at Manchester Royal Infirmary. His first two children Caroline and John were born in the 1950's. He then settled as a Consultant Physician in Glasgow at the Western Infirmary. Celia then gave birth to twins there, Helen And Anne. In addition to clinical work Hugh became an Honorary clinical lecturer teaching undergraduates at the University of Glasgow. He also examined MRCP and University finalists.

Latterly, before retiring in 1984, he became Head of the Medical Division at Gartnavel General hospital in Glasgow. His children record that everyone spoke of his warm bedside manner and the fact that they held him in such high regard.

He became a Governor of Laurel Bank School in the 1970's and all his life, and into retirement, golf was a major activity for him at both Buchanan Castle and Glasgow Golf Clubs.

Hugh's kind nature could be seen when his nine grandchildren were around him. He was proud of them all and their achievements whether in medicine, academia, art or business. In recent years he moved from Glasgow to Edinburgh with Celia to be nearer his family. He was especially generous with his time caring for Celia over her last five years until December 2016.

The family in Edinburgh, London and Derbyshire pass thanks and good wishes to all who knew Hugh, as a doctor and a true gentleman.