

William Ernest (“Bill”) Beer

Consultant Dermatologist, Bangor, 1965-1991 (b 1926; q Madras Medical College 1950; FRCP). Died in a road traffic accident on 10 December 1999.

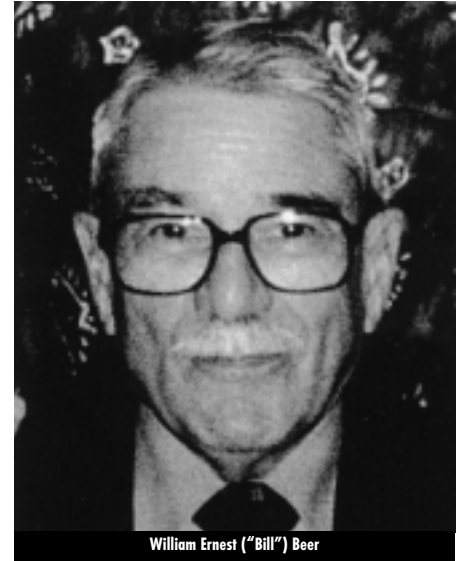
William Ernest (“Bill”) Beer was born in the Nilgiri hills of southern India, into a missionary family originally from Devon, where his father worked on rabies at the local Pasteur Institute. His interest in dermatology began during house jobs in Vellore. He was later the only doctor at a mission hospital where his wife, Joan, was treasurer, and support from the mission eventually enabled him to study at St John’s Hospital, London.

After a senior registrar appointment at the Westminster Hospital, Bill was appointed consultant at the Caernarfon and Anglesey Hospital in Bangor in 1965. There, and later at Ysbyty Gwynedd, he developed over 26 years a service notable for its professional and enthusiastic approach. (Another achievement at the C & A was the

“Friday Curry Club” whereby his instructions were said to have produced the best curry west of Madras).

He may have retired from the dermatology department in 1991, but he never really left it. His continued contributions to meetings were a delight, and he took particular pride in the Wycombe prize he won in 1993 for research on atopic eczema and psoriasis. He maintained his private practice, and acted as a locum consultant until a few weeks before his death.

The essence of Bill Beer was enthusiasm, evidenced by an unquenchable inquisitiveness for everything from astronomy to Welsh, a zest for travel, and well-stocked cellar. Just before his death he completed his history of the hospital where



he had started his consultant career. Life for Bill was a joy, and the secure foundation for his own life was the faith of those forebears from the Nilgiri Hills.

He leaves a wife, daughter and two grandchildren.