

John Cameron Bremner

1930 - 1973



John Bremner was born in Queensland, Australia on 8 November 1930 and educated at Melbourne University, Victoria; later he moved to Perth, Western Australia, where he was making a distinguished career in plastic surgery when he fell ill and died at the age of forty-two.

At the University he won the Syme Prize in Anatomy with an Exhibition in 1950, the Ryan Prize in Surgery in 1953, and qualified that year; in 1956 he passed Part I of the MS examination. After holding resident posts at the Royal Melbourne Hospital he was appointed in 1956 associate-assistant surgeon to E E Dunlop and became associate-assistant to B K Rank, plastic and facio-maxillary surgeon to the Hospital; he was also part-time surgeon to the Casualty Clinic and assistant to A R Wakefield, reparative surgeon to the Peter MacCallum Clinic, Melbourne Cancer Institute. In the same period he was a demonstrator, first of pathology and then of surgery, in the University and from 1957 clinical supervisor of students at the Hospital. He won a Fulbright Fellowship for advanced study at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1959. On his way to America he visited London, took the Fellowship, and attended the Second International Congress of Plastic Surgery. At Pittsburgh he held the post of teaching fellow and preceptor in plastic surgery, and undertook research on tendon healing. He also attended the meetings of the Canadian and American Societies of Plastic Surgeons, and was elected an Honorary Fellow of the latter; he became a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons in 1961.

He returned to Australia in 1960 on appointment to the staff of the plastic and maxillo-facial unit at the Royal Perth Hospital, and was promoted to be surgeon to the unit in 1964. He was also plastic surgeon to the Fremantle Hospital, and consultant plastic surgeon to the Royal Australian Navy, in which he had held the rank of Surgeon Lieutenant, RAN Reserve, since 1955. He was lecturer in surgery at the University of Western Australia, and a member of the West Australia State Medical Planning Committee; he built up a prosperous private practice, and was active in the West Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons.

John was a cultivated and generous man; he gave a donation in 1973 to buy works of art for the adornment of the Medical School at the University of Western Australia in the hope that future students would enjoy looking at the pictures and broaden their interests. His recreations were tennis, golf and sailing; he was interested in farming and a partner in two grazing and beef-cattle properties outside Perth. He was also a keen Freemason, and was Master-elect of the St George

Lodge, Perth at the time of his death. Bremner was seriously ill in 1972, received leave from his duties, and died at Portsea, Victoria on 8 June 1973 aged forty-two; he was unmarried.

Publications: Correlation of tongue changes and nutrition. *Roy Melb Hosp Clin Rep* 1952, 22, 46. Splenic vein thrombosis in patient with myeloproliferative syndrome. *Roy Melb Hosp Clin Rep* 1954, 24, 117.

Sources *Western Australian*, Perth, 9 June 1973 Information from his brother Ronald S Bremner of Brighton, Victoria, from H Hansen-Knarhoi FRCS and N A Turner FRCS, both of Perth, Western Australia Rights Copyright (c) The Royal College of Surgeons of England Collection Plarr's Lives of the Fellows Format Obituary Format Asset Asset Path Root/Lives of the Fellows/E005000-E005999/E005600-E005699 URL for File 377847 Media Type Unknown