

Titans of Bristol Medicine

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Dr. Roddy Hughes. Former GP Principal, Associate Medical Postgraduate Dean and Regional Advisor in General Practice, University of Bristol.

PROLOGUE

Henry Ford is reputed to have said that 'history is bunk.'
Winston Churchill took the view that knowledge of the past is fundamental to understanding the present .
Others have said that the lessons of history are the means of avoiding the mistakes of the past.

The names of Budd, Beddoe and Carey Coombs were once emblazoned on three of the medical wards in the old building at the BRI; those of Swayne and Munro Smith were commemorated as the names of two surgical wards in the King Edward VII building; and Greig Smith, a general surgeon, was commemorated in an orthopaedic theatre; whilst Hey Groves, who became primarily an orthopaedic surgeon, has his name remembered in a general surgical theatre.

With the exception of Hey Groves, all these names have been swept away to be replaced by anonymous numbers.

Before they slip yet further into obscurity I should like to look at their lives and many achievements.