

NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
SOUTHWESTERN
MEDICAL SCHOOL AT DALLAS



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DALLAS--At 83, Dr. Gilbert E. Brereton has only begun to slow down a little bit.

Still busy with his patients after more than 50 years, he's one of the city's oldest active medical practitioners. And he has no plans to retire anytime soon.

But he did step aside this week from a part-time job at Parkland Memorial Hospital--one which consumed countless hours over nearly three decades without a penny in pay.

Since 1943, Dr. Brereton had served voluntarily as director of Parkland's Gastroenterology Clinic, caring for thousands of patients suffering from stomach and intestinal disorders. And he has helped teach scores of future doctors as an unpaid clinical professor of internal medicine at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

Dr. Brereton was honored by his colleagues and students at a surprise ceremony Thursday (Dec. 2) at the conclusion of Grand Rounds at Parkland. An overflow audience of some 400 physicians, medical professors, students and hospital staff members paid tribute to the veteran physician in the house staff library of the hospital.

Dr. Donald M. Seldin, professor and chairman of Internal Medicine at UT Southwestern, praised Dr. Brereton for his "long and dedicated service, both to the hospital and the medical school." He presented the physician a plaque which described Dr. Brereton as a man "who, by his example, taught us what a physician should be."

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Rendered almost speechless by the surprise honor, Dr. Brereton asked Dr. Seldin to express for him his appreciation to the assemblage. Afterward, he commented, "They shouldn't have made such an example of me."

As to his motivation for such long and unselfish service, he explains:

"I've just been paying my debts to my teachers."

In addition to presiding over the weekly Gastroenterology Clinic every Monday morning since 1943, Dr. Brereton also has served Parkland as an attending physician, regularly making ward rounds and instructing advanced medical students from Southwestern.

He also has served on the staffs of other Dallas hospitals. He was chairman of the St. Paul Hospital house staff in 1930, and headed Methodist Hospital's staff in 1945 and 1946. In 1950, he chaired Parkland's staff.

A 1914 graduate of Rush Medical College, Chicago, Dr. Brereton has been practicing medicine in Dallas since 1919. His offices are in the Medical Arts Building downtown. He resides at 403 W. Clarendon.

He is a Fellow in the American College of Physicians and a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine. He was president of the Dallas County Medical Society in 1945.

Is the busy doctor considering retirement? Not yet.

"I have no business retiring," he said, "as long as I can safely and effectively serve my patients."

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