

DR TILLY DREYER

21-05-1912 - 01-05-2000

OBITUARY

Tilly Dreyer was born in Thaba'Nehu, Orange Free State on 21st May, 1912. She enrolled as a student at the Witwatersrand Medical School, first obtaining a Medical B.Sc. before completing her MB.Bch degree. After qualifying she was asked to assist at the Mission Hospital, Bremersdorp, Swaziland, where she spent a year and then returned to Johannesburg.

Tilly had "chutzpa" which she retained all her life. As a young graduate, she applied for a post as a lecturer at the Wits Medical School. So began an era of teaching anatomy to medical, dental, physiotherapy and occupational therapy students which lasted for many years. She is fondly remembered by the hundreds of Wits graduates who passed through her hands. Her association with the Physiotherapy Department at the Johannesburg Hospital began with her appointment as a physical medicine specialist; thereafter acting as a consultant to the department. It was in this capacity that she became an integral part



of the life of the department. She was respected for the way in which she adapted to the rapid changes that were taking place during that time. She was a true professional who was always immaculate in her personal appearance.

The collaboration of Dr. Tilly Dreyer and Mr. Ernest Kruger in the field of

rehabilitation, in particular that of amputees, resulted in decades of outstanding service to patients from all over the country.

She had a wonderful memory, remembering names and details of her patients, besides always being available to members of staff who wanted to consult her.

She made many friends, was very active socially, enjoying the arts, playing tennis, and above all relishing the jokes she shared with all. Tilly was a "fun" person and was always the life and soul of any party.

A letter received from England reads: "It is with sadness I learnt of the death of Tilly Dreyer last week. I actually can't imagine her not being around, she seemed so much part of my life as a physiotherapy student, a new graduate and then being there during my most formative period in the seventies and eighties. She was a great dame, with a caring attitude to people and a good sense of humour".

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