and/or published in the journals. In consequence, his publication list runs to nearly 300, with many papers representing unique and important clinical observations. As someone who wrote several papers under his guidance I was always struck by how careful he was both to check that all was as it should be factually, and to ensure that the English was perfect. He loved his adopted language and he made sure that he used it well.

As his career developed he contributed in many areas of dermatology and medicine. He was an examiner for the MRCP. At the RSM, he represented dermatology on the council, was the dermatology section president and served on the scientific and executive committee. He was secretary and president of the Dowling Club, president of the St John's Hospital Dermatology Society, and the first British representative on the European Union of Medical Specialties, becoming its president in 1986. Above all, I know he was very proud indeed to have been elected president of our association, the BAD, in 1988/9, a year in which I had the honour of acting as his local secretary.

Honours followed too, including honorary membership of dermatological societies in Italy, Norway, New Zealand, South Africa and Germany. He was most tremendously proud of being one of a select band of British members of the American Dermatological Association, being elected in 1977 for his contributions.

In short, Imrich Sarkany served his chosen specialty with enormous distinction but, as you may have gathered, there was more to him than that. He was a tough and challenging boss, with very high standards in personal, ethical and professional matters, but he also had a wry sense of humour and a ready, beaming smile, and he understood the enormous importance of loyalty.

Finally, he was above all a man of devotion. He truly loved his subject and his profession, gave it his all, and was rightly proud of his achievements and of those of his pupils and colleagues. More importantly, he was completely devoted to Helen throughout a long and wonderfully happy marriage, and to his children: Lizzie (a psychiatrist), Bobby (one of us, of course) and Andy, a lawyer – and their burgeoning families too. As Helen said at his funeral, he ended his life as he began it in: deep in the heart of a loving family.

Although we mourn his passing, we also celebrate a great man and a great career. For me “IS” still IS – in the influence he had on those who met and worked with him.

Dr Robin Graham-Brown – President

Cecily Pearl Blair (née Hopton) was consultant dermatologist to Oldchurch and Harold Wood Hospitals in Havering for nearly 20 years. She was a devoted clinician and a loyal colleague, and I personally owe it to her that I myself entered dermatology.

Cecily was a delightful person, with charm, a ready wit, and a deep underlying humanity, which often showed itself in the love and concern which she had for others. As a result she was a natural teacher, with great patience, and an able trainer of her junior colleagues. I particularly remember with affection the lunch time lectures which she gave to us juniors, often accompanied by her large and friendly poodle, Jacko.

Cicely was born and brought up in Huddersfield where both her parents were teachers. After attending the local high school, she gained a place to study medicine at the Royal Free Hospital and migrated to London, where she spent the rest of her life. Cicely qualified in 1951, and it was during house jobs at her teaching hospital and the London Jewish Hospital, that she met her future husband, Henry Blair. They were married in 1954, and Cicely joined him in general practice in Chingford. While in practice, she became increasingly interested in dermatology and eventually in 1969, she left to embark on a new phase in her career, as a dermatologist. Her husband, Henry, was developing a special interest in allergy and he was to become, clinical allergist to the respiratory medicine department at Whipps Cross Hospital. Cicely and Henry were both dedicated to their chosen overlapping specialties, each active in research, but combining zeal for their professional work with an abiding interest in people.

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OBITUARY

Mark Hewitt was appointed as Consultant Dermatologist for the whole of Cornwall as a half time post in 1956. He laid the foundations for the large modern unit it has now become and at the same time pioneered research into the effects of mites and other insects in diseases of the skin.

He trained at the Middlesex Hospital, and worked as Chief Assistant to the Medical Unit at Manchester Royal Infirmary until the end of 1945. For the next 4 years he was Medical Consultant to the North West Region Ministry of Labour, during which time he became interested in skin disease, writing several papers for the Lancet on industrial dermatitis, and the dermatological problems of the unemployed and disabled. In 1950 he was appointed Senior Registrar and Tutor in Dermatology at Bristol under Dr R Warin. He was the first properly trained dermatologist to be appointed to Cornwall, succeeding Dr FH Whitlock who moved to Australia as a Professor of Psychiatry.

It now seems amazing that it was then thought possible that one consultant alone could be expected to deal with a population of 400,000 on a half time basis, but this he managed to do. However, as his reputation grew, so did the workload and eventually Dr George Wright, a GP in Falmouth with an MD in Dermatology, Dr Jim Mann, and subsequently Dr Ian Wort and Dr Celia Julian, joined him as clinical assistants.

He delighted in doing domiciliary visits, and whilst doing so developed his interest in papular urticaria, taking photographs and brushings for mites from dogs and other animals in the process. Patients also had their clothes shaken into bin liners, and the samples were initially sent off to the Veterinary department at Liverpool University for identification, but subsequently this was carried out locally by Stella Turk and Dr Ian Barrow (of the Truro Bacteriology laboratory). The study was extended to lobster pots, made of cherry wood which were also found to contain mites and were thought to cause problems with inshore fishermen. This work caused international interest, and Mark was asked to lecture on it throughout the UK and in Europe.

As a result, a PUVA machine and other equipment were purchased for the department. One fund-raising event in particular was a success. This involved hosting an evening at the local greyhound stadium.

Cicely outlived her husband by over 20 years, but continued after his death in the tradition they had established of warm and generous hospitality to colleagues and friends. An able photographer and a member of the Royal Geographical Society, Cicely travelled extensively after Henry's death. She enjoyed showing photographs, particularly those she took of the flora and fauna in the Falklands and Galapagos Islands. On two occasions she acted as visiting dermatologist to the Falklands.

Her creativity found further outlets in painting and silversmithing, both of which she increasingly enjoyed in retirement. She had a particular talent, and for several years exhibited in the summer exhibitions at the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal Society of Medicine, and at the Mall galleries. Her skills as a needlewoman are on display in the outpatients department of Harold Wood Hospital where she contributed to the embroidered wall hanging made to celebrate the opening of the new department.

In 1990 she generously presented a silver chain of office to the British Association of Dermatology which she had worked herself, to be worn by the president of the association. That it was completed just in time to be worn by the president for that year, Dr. Harvey Baker, gave her no small satisfaction.

Dr Jennifer Salisbury – Essex

Mark Hewitt

Born 1918, died 2005

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