



Robert H Meara

Robert Meara was born in Monmouthshire but never had any doubts that he was Welsh.

After school he went up to St Catherine's College, Cambridge and graduated with First Class Honours in the Natural Science Tripos, before going to University College Hospital. He served in the R.A.M.C in World War II with 153 Field

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8 December 1917 - 4 August 1999

Ambulance in Gen. Montgomery's Eighth Army from Normandy up to Lubeck in the Baltic at the time of the final surrender.

On return he trained at U.C.H and St John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, before consultant posts at St John's and the Middlesex Hospitals, as well as Goldie Leigh Hospital. It was there that he worked with Dr G B Dowling and described a special form of Epidermolysis Bullosa (the Dowling_Meara variant) now known to be due to defective keratins K5 and K14 in the basal cell layer. In 1979 he gave the Parkes Weber lecture at the Royal College of Physicians on Hutchinson's Summer Prurigo.

He was Dean of the Institute of Dermatology from 1970 to 1980, where he was very popular with the postgraduate students and entertained them every year

at his home. Robert had a broad interest in the arts, with an extensive knowledge of music, history, and the archaeology of Greece and Byzantium. He travelled widely, and visited Greece every year. His wife, Mair, was a fluent Welsh speaker; her father had spent twenty-five years as a sheep farmer in Patagonia. On a visit to South America they visited the area and found the farm and the Welsh chapel, where the people spoke only Welsh and Spanish. At the same time they went on to Antarctica. He became ill on his last visit to Greece in 1998 and died of leukaemia within a year of his return.

Robert is survived by his wife and three children. His son is a consultant geriatrician and a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians.

Dr C D Calnan