

Graham Sherratt

It was with great regret that we heard the news of the death of one of our Senior Past Presidents, Graham Sherratt.

Some of Graham's university colleagues viewed his decision to join Ruddock in private practice early in his career with considerable scepticism. In due course he proved his critics to be wrong and built up a thriving practice becoming virtually the established leader of the part time or consultant Public Analysts in the North of England.

His first appointment was as Public Analyst to the County Borough of Warrington in 1930 and at the time of his retirement he served in this capacity 18 different authorities mainly in the North of England and Wales.

Water analysis was one of Graham's great interests and he was consultant analyst to the Warrington Water Department, Cheshire River Board and the Gwynedd River Board. He was also one of the consultant analysts to the Anglers Co-operation Association and took part in a number of important legal cases aimed at reducing the pollution of fishable rivers. After his retirement, he was the joint author with George Newsom QC of a book entitled "Water Pollution (a guide to those who are concerned with grappling with river pollution)"; published in 1972.

Graham had a great regard for our Association and was one of the Senior Public Analyst members of the old Society of Public Analysts who initially supported the formation of the new Association. This was at a time when some of his contemporaries viewed the formation of a new Association with many misgivings. Sherratt served on the Council of the Society for Analytical Chemistry for three different periods, was a Vice-President for two periods and Chairman of the North of England Section in 1960. He became our President in 1959 and until his retirement in 1970 he took a very active part in all the work of Public Analysts and in the development of the Association. The gavel which our Presidents now use sometimes with such vigour was presented to the Association by Graham in memory of Herbert Evans.

One of Sherratt's major contributions to Public Analyst work was his chairmanship of the newly formed Board of Examiners for the Branch E Examination of the Royal Institute of Chemistry (now the Royal Society of Chemistry). At the time of his appointment, this examination was at its lowest ebb and attracted very few candidates with the result that the country might well have been faced with insufficient adequately qualified analysts to fill Public Analyst appointments as they became vacant.

The writer was one of the first examiners appointed by the new Board and was, therefore, fully aware of the problems the new chairman had to face. The support that the chairman gave to the examiners in their efforts to improve the general standard of the Examination was greatly appreciated and will always be remembered.

Graham devoted many hours to his practice but, nevertheless, he found time for other interests such as photography, shooting, fishing, sailing and the countryside in general.

J. H. HAMENCE