

## Letters to the Editor

### To put the Record Straight

Sir

I enjoy reading your series on the history of Plastic Surgery Centres in the United Kingdom. It is unfortunate that in the article on the history of Shotley Bridge Hospital (*British Journal of Plastic Surgery*, 39, 424) Italy's prominent plastic surgeon, Dr Gustavo Sanvenero-Rosselli (1887-1974), is spelled as Signor Venero Rosselli.

It would have been interesting to add a few lines on Mr William Cowell, assistant to Mr Wardill. In 1943 he left Shotley Bridge to join Nr 6 Maxillo-Facial Unit of the RAMC, and in November 1946 he did not return to Britain but started a private practice in Antwerp, becoming with Maurice Coelst (1894-1963) the second plastic surgeon in Belgium. The president of the Belgian Society of Plastic Surgery, Dr Vrebos, stated in 1980: "We are very much indebted to him for the excellent work he has done when plastic surgery was in its infancy in our country."

Yours sincerely  
BAREND HAESEKER  
Consultant Plastic Surgeon  
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Sir

A recent paper in the *British Journal of Plastic Surgery* by Cormack and Lamberty from Cambridge University describes the use of a microcomputer in plastic surgery research. Reference was made in the discussion to an interesting paper presented at the BAPS meeting at the Royal College in December 1984. This paper described the use of a digitising device which calculated symmetry following unilateral cleft lip repair. Unfortunately, the paper was attributed to myself; rather should it have been attributed to Brian Coghlan, the medical student who presented the paper beautifully, and to his co-workers, Professor Bruce Matthews and Mr Ron Pigott. My paper, describing another computer application in the evaluation of cleft lip repairs, followed Mr Coghlan in the programme and I would not like to detract from his excellent and innovative research by misattributions.

I understand that his paper is being considered for publication in your Journal and I look forward to reading it as it is a significant contribution to the objective evaluation of cleft lip surgery.

Yours sincerely  
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### Reference

Cormack, G. C. and Lamberty, B. G. H. (1986). Measurement of geometric parameters in plastic surgery research: use of the departmental microcomputer. *British Journal of Plastic Surgery*, 39, 307.

*Editor's note.* Mr Coghlan's paper has been accepted for publication.