

Sir John Hammond, C.B.E. F.R.S.

It was with the most profound regret that the Cambridge University Press and the editors of the *Journal of Agricultural Science* learnt of the death of Sir John Hammond in Cambridge on 25 August 1964. Sir John had served as an editor since 1943, had been chief editor since 1949, and he had devoted much time and thought to the *Journal's* welfare. During the period of his office, particularly when he was chief editor, he stimulated many authors in all parts of the world and in various branches of animal research to contribute to the *Journal*, and he did much to widen the scope of the *Journal's* activities within the sphere of animal physiology with special reference to reproduction, climatic adaptation and growth.

Hammond's professional life was based on the School of Agriculture of the University of Cambridge, from which the *Journal* has been published since it was founded in 1905. He joined the School of Agriculture in 1920, having served in the 1914-18 War, and devoted himself to research in a wide range of problems relating to the physiology of farm animals until his retirement in 1954. He became a great authority on breeds of livestock and on their breeding. Hammond was also concerned with teaching at the School, and his research attracted a large number of research students from many countries. Some of these students continued similar kinds of research on return to their home countries, and many profitable research programmes throughout the world owe their inception to Hammond's stimulation. Cambridge recognized Hammond's distinction by electing him to a Readership in Agricultural Physiology in 1943, in succession to F. H. A. Marshall, while his College—Downing—made him a Fellow in 1936.

Few agricultural scientists have received so many recognitions of their work in the form of honours, awards and honorary degrees as did Hammond. He was elected to Fellowship of the Royal Society of London as early as 1933, he received an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Agricultural Society of England in 1956, an Honorary Associateship of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1959, and he was made a Knight Bachelor in 1960. He held honorary degrees from Leeds, Durham, Iowa, Copenhagen, Cracow, Louvain and Vienna Universities and he was a foreign member of a number of agricultural and veterinary academies and societies outside this country. It was inevitable also that he should serve on a number of important government committees and commissions with particular

reference to animal production, and his services were enlisted by U.N.R.R.A., U.N. and F.A.O. as well as by scientific councils and bodies in a number of countries. He had been president of the British Society of Animal Production, the Nutrition Society, the 2nd International Congress of Physiology and Pathology of Animal Reproduction and Artificial Insemination, and Section M (Agriculture) of the British Association.

These honours and commitments were the recognition of Hammond's great distinction arising from his own researches at Cambridge, carried out at the Animal Nutrition Institute, the Animal Research Station and the Agricultural Research Council's Unit of Animal Reproduction of which he was Honorary Director from 1946-54. Hammond and his co-workers developed researches on artificial insemination which were responsible for the establishment of the first Artificial Insemination Centres in this country and the subsequent adoption of artificial insemination as a practical procedure for the improvement of farm stock in British agriculture. But Hammond's interests in animal physiology were wide, and covered a great range of subjects affecting production in farm stock. It is interesting, however, that his first paper, published in this *Journal* in 1912, was entitled 'An investigation concerning the food of certain birds'. From this date an enormous number of papers was published by Hammond, often in co-authorship, in a wide range of journals, while he wrote 3 major books—*Reproduction in the Cow*, 1927; *Growth and Development of Mutton Quality in the Sheep*, 1932; *Farm Animals: their Breeding, Growth and Inheritance*, 1940—and contributed important chapters in some standard works. He also edited the exhaustive monograph 'Progress in the Physiology of Farm Animals' and was co-editor and part-author of a text-book on animal breeding—*Handbuch der Tierzucht*, 3 vols 1958-61.

The unique feature of Hammond's work and life was the extraordinary blend of the considerable scholar, the imaginative and creative research worker and the practical agriculturist. His published scientific papers, books and exhaustive treatises were of the highest calibre, while he wrote numerous articles for a wide range of practical agricultural journals. He seemed to do this with equal facility, in the same manner as he could address audiences of scientists in many disciplines as successfully as he could talk to farmers and students. During his lifetime the effect of his

work was enormous, and the impetus he gave to research will continue for a very long time. Indeed, much of his work must be regarded as having a permanent influence on scientific thought and on practical agriculture, and no man can expect

to do more. When, in addition, this is accompanied by a humility and modesty which inspires respect and a sincere affection, then one is justified in recognizing and acclaiming a truly great man.

G.D.H.B.