

THE JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

EDITED BY

PROF. SIR J. W. L. BEAMENT, SC.D., F.R.S., Department of Applied Biology, Cambridge

G. D. H. BELL, C.B.E., PH.D., SC.D. (*h.c.*), D.SC. (*h.c.*), F.R.S., 6 Worts Causeway, Cambridge

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The Journal welcomes concise papers reporting original experimental data or experimental methods, or new analyses of already existing data, in any aspect of Agricultural Science. It does not normally publish review articles. The Editors must be informed if any of the material submitted has been published elsewhere. If a paper is accepted, it must not be published elsewhere in the same form. Papers should be submitted to Professor Sir James Beament, Sc.D., F.R.S., Journal of Agricultural Science, Department of Applied Biology, Pembroke Street, Cambridge CB2 3DX, or to one of the Associate Editors.

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SIR BERNARD KEEN, D.Sc., F.R.S.

The Editors announce with profound regret the death on 5 August 1981 of Bernard Augustus Keen at his home at Bournemouth in his 90th year, while expressing grateful recognition of outstanding service to the Journal from 1924 to 1965.

Dr B. A. Keen was soil physicist at Rothamsted Experimental Station when he was invited to join the Board, which then consisted of six members and still included some of the Journal's founders. During the period 1924 to 1943 Keen worked assiduously with Sir John Russell to maintain the valuable and essential links between Rothamsted and Cambridge which were the basis of the organization and operation of the Journal. He was, also, always very ready to contribute his views and advice, given after careful and responsible consideration, on vital matters of Editorial strategy affecting Journal character and status. Thus in 1929 he expressed his conviction that the Journal must continue its policy of publishing as a unified vehicle in agricultural science and not divide into two sections as had been suggested as being more suitable. This format has continued to the present day.

Keen's great value to the Editorial Board was much enhanced, of course, by his increasing eminence as a scientist and the wide experience he achieved in a number of important posts in this and other countries during and after the First World War. He travelled widely, did much important advisory work on scientific and agricultural matters at government level, especially in the Middle East and Africa, and became Director of the East African Agriculture and Forestry Research Organisation from 1947 to 1955. These career changes and involvement made Keen less immediately available for day-to-day concern with Journal editorial and publishing duties, but he managed to remain active in policy matters and attended meetings when possible. His close interest in and clear understanding of the past and future contribution that the Journal was fitted to make to the published literature in agricultural science gave Keen the opportunity in 1948 to give wise guidance to the Board's consideration of the Journal's future with special regard to its ownership. He submitted a Note on Future Policy, which ably summarized past achievements, current status in the publishing world, and future potential. The Note proved to be timely and pertinent and helped vital decisions to be taken involving the critical agreement with the Cambridge University Press on future ownership, financing and operation.

Sir Bernard Keen must undoubtedly be included with Sir Rowland Biffen, Sir Daniel Hall, Sir John Russell and Professor T. B. Wood who fashioned the *Journal of Agricultural Science*, had faith in its worth and objectives, and ultimately gave it an established place as an international journal of prestige. Although too junior to be a founder, with Biffen, Hall

and Wood, he followed Russell in appointment and thereby established a continuity from 1905 to 1965. Only Biffen and Russell served longer as an Editor, Hall and Wood served less, 37 and 29 years respectively, but this group of eminent men ensured the framework on which the future was built and the present Journal status has been achieved.

The Editors were very pleased that he was able to join them after the meeting which marked the 75th anniversary of the launching of the Journal.