

## BERNARD GEORGE PETERS, 1903-1967

Professor B. G. Peters, M.Sc, Ph.D., who died at his home in Sunninghill on the 9th September, 1967 after some months' illness, was a frequent contributor to the *Journal of Helminthology* from the year 1926, his name appearing on 29 articles. Born at Isleworth and educated at Bristol Grammar School, he graduated in 1925 from the University of Bristol. His early postgraduate studies and training in helminthology were with Professor Leiper at the Institute of Agricultural Parasitology, Winches Farm, St. Albans and at the Department of Helminthology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, where he held research scholarships from the Ministry of Agriculture (1926) and from the Grocers' Company (1927-1929). In 1929 he was appointed Chief Officer of the Imperial Bureau of Agricultural Parasitology, now the Commonwealth Bureau of Helminthology, at which he was later to become Deputy Director in 1932 and finally Consultant Director. From 1932 to 1936 he held the posts of Demonstrator and Lecturer in Helminthology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

During his association with the Bureau and the School he continued his researches which covered a variety of subjects in helminthology but his main concern was with the infant science of nematology, inspired by Professor Leiper, to which he made notable contributions both in its free-living and plant parasitic aspects and was widely recognised as an authority on the subject. His great interest in the application of statistics to biological and other problems led to the enlistment of his expert knowledge during the war, in operational research at R.A.F. Bomber Command. In 1948 he joined the newly formed Nematology Department at Rothamsted and was head of this unit from 1952-1955.

It was characteristic of Peters that he did not hesitate when the opportunity came to him in 1956 to take the new Chair of Parasitology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology at South Kensington. During his tenure of this post he perceived the need for post graduate training of overseas students in particular in the economically important science of plant nematology and instituted a course in this subject at the Field Station of the Imperial College at Sunninghill in the new Shell Parasitology Building which was erected for this purpose.

Peters was a man of high principles and a perfectionist in everything he did, whether in research, administration or teaching, at all of which he excelled. His published works, listed in a recent number of *Helminthological Abstracts*, indicate the wide scope of his interests and achievements in helminthology which has lost a most distinguished scholar. He will be greatly missed both as a kindly personality and a dedicated scientist. We offer our deep sympathy to his widow and daughter.

J. J. C. BUCKLEY