

to further investigations in this difficult interdisciplinary area.

- ¹ Hyden, H., in *The Cell*, edit. by Brachet, J., and Mirsky, A., 4, 215 (Academic Press, New York, 1960).
- ² Gaito, J., *Psych. Rev.*, 70, 471 (1963).
- ³ Schmitt, F. O., in *Macromolecular Specificity and Biological Memory*, edit. by Schmitt, F. O., 1 (Mass. Inst. Tech. Press., Camb., 1962).
- ⁴ Flexner, J. B., Flexner, L., Stellar, E., de la Haba, G., and Roberts, R. B., *J. Neurochem.*, 9, 595 (1962).
- ⁵ Flexner, J. B., Flexner, L., and Stellar, E., *Science*, 141, 57 (1963).
- ⁶ Smith, C. E., *Science*, 138, 889 (1962).
- ⁷ Briggs, M. H., and Kitto, G. B., *Psychol. Rev.*, 69, 537 (1962).
- ⁸ Hechter, O., and Halkerston, I. D. K., *Perspectives in Biol. and Med.*, 7, 183 (1964).
- ⁹ Dingman, W., and Sporn, M. B., *Science*, 144, 26 (1964).
- ¹⁰ Eccles, J. C., *The Physiology of Synapses*, 239 (Academic Press, N.Y., 1964).
- ¹¹ Haggard, R. A., and Barr, M. L., *J. Comp. Neurol.*, 93, 17 (1950).
- ¹² Edds, jun., M. V., *Quart. Rev. Biol.*, 28, 260 (1953).

- ¹³ Sharpless, S. K., *Ann. Rev. Physiol.*, 26, 357 (1964).
- ¹⁴ Bures, J., and Buresova, O., *J. Comp. Physiol. Psychol.*, 56, 268 (1963).
- ¹⁵ Chorover, S. L., and Schiller, P. H., *J. Comp. Physiol. Psychol.* (in the press).
- ¹⁶ Jacob, F., and Monod, J., *J. Mol. Biol.*, 3, 318 (1961).
- ¹⁷ Garren, L. D., Howell, R. R., and Tomkins, G. M., *J. Mol. Biol.*, 9, 100 (1964).
- ¹⁸ Monod, J., Changeux, J. P., and Jacob, F., *J. Mol. Biol.*, 6, 306 (1963).
- ¹⁹ Cameron, D. E., Solyom, L., Sved, S., and Wainrib, B., *Amer. J. Psychiat.*, 120, 320 (1964).
- ²⁰ Cook, L., Davidson, A. B., Davis, D. V., Green, L., and Fellows, E. V., *Science*, 141, 268 (1963).
- ²¹ Hyden, H., and Egyhazi, E., *Proc. U.S. Nat. Acad. Sci.*, 48, 1366 (1962).
- ²² Reich, E., Franklin, R. M., Shatkin, A. J., and Tatum, E. L., *Proc. U.S. Nat. Acad. Sci.*, 48, 1238 (1962).
- ²³ Yarmolinsky, M., and de la Haba, G. L., *Proc. U.S. Nat. Acad. Sci.*, 45, 1721 (1959).
- ²⁴ Dingman, W., and Sporn, M. B., *J. Psychiat. Res.*, 1, 1 (1961).
- ²⁵ Chamberlain, T. J., Rothschild, G. H., and Gerard, R. W., *Proc. U.S. Nat. Acad. Sci.*, 49, 918 (1963).
- ²⁶ Barondes, S. H., and Jarvik, M. E., *J. Neurochem.*, 11, 187 (1964).

OBITUARIES

Prof. W. H. Pearsall, F.R.S.

PROF. W. H. PEARSALL, who died on October 14 at the age of seventy-three, was a versatile botanist and a man of whom it was said that he had become a legend in his own lifetime.

He was educated at Ulverston Grammar School and the University of Manchester. After service in the First World War he joined the staff of the University of Leeds, eventually becoming reader in botany. In 1938 he was appointed professor of botany in the University of Sheffield. From 1944 until his retirement he was Quain professor of botany in University College, London. He continued his association with the College as emeritus professor and honorary research associate. In 1940 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, which he served in many ways, including two terms on its Council. In 1963 he was awarded the Linnean Society's Gold Medal.

Pearsall's father was an amateur botanist and ecologist and a lover of the Lake District. It was during holidays there that Pearsall began to acquire his unique knowledge of the district. He and his father began the study of the aquatic macrophytes of Esthwaite Water and other lakes in 1913. After the War they made a thorough investigation of the planktonic algae. Pearsall was also mapping the vegetation of the fen at the head of Esthwaite Water. More than forty years later he made his last, unpublished map. The North Fen, now a Nature Reserve, is the best-known fen of its kind in Britain. From these investigations came a series of classical papers about the development of the English Lakes and their vegetation, together with his interest in the chemistry of underwater soils and post-glacial history. Meanwhile he was also carrying out laboratory investigations on plant physiology which were both valuable in themselves and threw light on the ecology of the plants concerned. He did notable work on the growth of *Chlorella*, which he also used as an ecological tool to elucidate the growth of algae in lakes. The work he did on the physiology and ecology of aquatic plants has been a constant source of inspiration to workers at the Freshwater Biological Association and elsewhere.

Pearsall edited the *Journal of Ecology* for several years, and, at the time of his death, was still one of the editors of the *Annals of Botany*. He was also a trustee of the Society of Experimental Botany. He exerted special influence on the growth of the Freshwater Biological Association, the Nature Conservancy and the Institute of Biology.

A founder member of the Freshwater Biological Association, he acted as honorary director during 1931-37 and chairman of Council from 1954 onwards. Few have done as much as he did to bring the Association from its humble birth in a period of economic depression to its

present position as one of the most famous bodies of its kind in the world. His influence on the members of the staff extended into every aspect of their work, including the ecology of fish, in which, perhaps, he had a special interest from his love of fishing. In his artistic appreciation of Nature—he was a good painter in water-colours—lay part of his wonderful insight into the broader aspects of ecology. He was a natural choice as a Charter Member of the Nature Conservancy. The unique position this body holds in the world to-day is, to a large extent, the result of the untiring efforts he made on its behalf. Characteristically his influence was felt both in the sphere of high policy and among the younger scientists who joined the Conservancy. He also made a notable contribution to the protection of wild life in Africa by his *Report on the Ecological Survey of the Serengeti National Park, Tanganyika* (1957). His influence on the Institute of Biology, of which he was chairman in 1957-58, was also profound, while he was the first vice-president of the Council for Nature. He was consulted officially on innumerable biological matters, but it may not be generally known how often he was also consulted unofficially.

Pearsall was the most understanding and generous of friends. He was always good company, and many will remember with affection the twinkle in his blue eyes which heralded the start of one of his stories. To be with him in the field, especially on the hills he loved so much, was pure joy. Something of this can be felt when reading his *Mountains and Moorlands* (1949). His influence on younger workers was immense, notably in the period when he was at University College, London. He could be obstinate, even exasperating; yet one of his most wonderful characteristics was that it was out of disagreement that some of the most fruitful researches of his colleagues were likely to come—much to his delight. Their regard for him grew all the time, irrespective of whether they agreed with his ideas or not. Moreover, his hypotheses were by no means always incorrect; they might equally be too novel for people to appreciate their value at first.

It is no wonder that Pearsall was so highly respected and widely loved, or that he will be so sorely missed. His wife and two sons who survive him will receive sincere sympathy in their loss from a host of friends and colleagues.

J. W. G. LUND

Prof. Vincent Nechvíle

PROF. V. NECHVÍLE, whose death was reported in July of last year, was born in Prague on April 10, 1890. Like many other astronomers of his generation, Prof. Nechvíle entered our science as a mathematician. Soon after his doctorate at the Charles University (as a pupil and later assistant of the late Prof. Karel Petr), his career was interrupted by four years of the First World War, most of