

Sir Charles Martin received the Royal Medal of the Royal Society in 1923. He was a doctor of science of the Universities of London and Melbourne and held honorary doctorates of the Universities of Sheffield, Edinburgh, Durham and Trinity College, Dublin, and was an honorary M.A. of Cambridge. He was knighted in 1927. In 1926 he was made a member of the Medical Research Council, and he gave valuable help on many government committees.

Sir Charles Martin married Edythe, daughter of Alfred Cross, of Hastings, and had one daughter. His wife died in March 1954, at the age of ninety-four years.

HARRIETTE CHICK
ALAN N. DRURY

It was in his capacity as chairman during 1934-46 of the Committee of the Dunn Nutritional Laboratory, Cambridge, that I had the privilege of getting to know Sir Charles Martin well, and so of coming to respect, to admire and to love him. Intellectually, what stood out most was his astonishing width of interest and knowledge, in the most varied fields of medical research. Equally at home in many specialized departments of pathology, physiology, bacteriology, or biochemistry, he had the gift of seeing right into the heart of a problem; and knowing, as he did, how the present knowledge had been won, he quickly sensed what gaps still remained to be filled in. He was interested in knowledge for its own sake, and, unlike some lesser men, judged a research finding on its merits alone, not by its authorship. In consequence, he was able to recognize talent and originality where others might miss seeing it, and, as a result, had the satisfaction of fostering young, and sometimes precarious, research careers—leading in one instance at least to a later Nobel laureateship. He was never one of those prone to put his own name on the title of the papers of his assistants and students, published from his institute. On the contrary, it was an open secret that, during the years that he was director of the Lister Institute, much of the now classical work appearing under other names was really suggested, inspired and directed—sometimes even down to the smallest technical details—by him. He himself took a pride in being a competent technician and handyman, and in “Who’s Who” gave “tinkering” as his hobby. Entirely devoid of affectation and pretentiousness, he had not the inclination to waste time, for example, on the elegancies of dress, and on more than one occasion had—but only for a moment—been mistaken for a wandering tramp.

Martin’s scientific integrity was marked by a robust sense of right and wrong, and fair dealing, combined with practical common sense. He was prepared, in no uncertain voice, when occasion demanded, to stand up against established authority. To his junior colleagues and to his friends, he could at times be blunt and outspoken to a degree; but his direct speech never caused resentment, and one was warmed by the friendly, welcoming smile, always lurking below. Although in his own tastes simple to a degree, he could prove himself a man of the world in dealing with officialdom; indeed, one of his maxims was that people who failed to rub shoulders with their contemporaries had not succeeded in learning one of the elementary ‘techniques’ of their trade. Another of his maxims was that it is useless to appeal to reason where a person’s emotions have become involved.

Up to the end, Sir Charles retained both his charm and penetrating intellectual faculty.

LESLIE J. HARRIS

Dr. W. W. Barkas

WILFRID WATSON BARKAS, reader in paper-making technology in the Faculty of Technology of the University of Manchester, died on January 30 at the age of fifty-seven. Dr. Barkas was a North-countryman who was educated at the Friends’ School in Kendal and in the University of Manchester.

During the latter part of the First World War, Barkas served with the Friends’ Relief Service in France and returned home with “a deep appreciation of the finest qualities of the French peasant” and “a love of French food and wine”. After graduation in physics and mathematics in Manchester, he took a teacher’s diploma; but he was glad that he did not become a teacher. Instead, he joined the staff of the Physics Department of University College, London. He never fully recovered from a serious illness he had at this time.

In 1930 he was appointed to organize the Timber Physics Department at the Forest Products Research Laboratory in Princes Risborough, where he proved a “generous and inspiring leader”. While there he published a considerable amount of original work on the properties of fibres and fibre assemblages, for which he obtained his D.Sc. in 1945 and his fellowship of the Institute of Physics in 1946.

In 1949 he took charge of the Paper Making Section in the Manchester College of Technology, where he completely re-organized the courses. In doing this he was helped by his good personal relations with the leaders of the paper and board industry, who showed their support of him by the foundation of the George Rackley Scholarships to encourage students to take the new courses.

Barkas’s research work greatly impressed foreign scientists. In 1948 he was invited to deliver a series of lectures at the Swedish Forest Products Research Laboratory. These lectures were very well received and Prof. Steenberg says of them that they have had “a very marked influence on the general way of thinking in Scandinavia”. Last autumn there was a symposium at the Institute of Paper Chemistry in Appleton, Wisconsin, sponsored by the Research Councils of the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry of the United States and the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association and attended by two hundred of the leading workers in this field. As Dr. Barkas himself was not able to attend, the delegates to the symposium sent him a cable of appreciation of his work on which so much of their discussion had been based.

It is very sad that he did not live to see the full fruition of his ideas. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

J. M. PRESTON

Dr. C. W. Bellerby

CHARLES WILLIAM BELLERBY, who died on October 27 last year, will be remembered for several noteworthy contributions to reproductive endocrinology. He graduated in 1923 in Cambridge, as a member of Christ’s College, and in 1925 joined me in the Department of Physiology in University College,