was not only an indefatigable writer of articles for the farming press, and lecturer to farming audiences, but also a member of major committees of such organizations as the Royal Smithfield Club, the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers, the Milk Marketing Board, the Pig Industry Development Authority and the Institute of Meat. Through his presence on these committees he was able to influence decisions affecting the activities and welfare of thousands of farmers throughout the land. At the same time, these activities enabled him to keep in touch with trends and developments in farming practice so that he could predict with remarkable accuracy the problems which would need answers five or ten years ahead; a very valuable facility in research with farm animals which, in the nature of things, commonly takes from three to five years to complete.

Not only was he in great demand as an adviser and consultant by various practical organizations in Britain but he was also invited to advise on various aspects of animal production in many countries overseas, including the West Indies, Argentina, the United States, Poland, Nigeria, Rhodesia, the Sudan, India and Australia. It is a remarkable tribute to the tireless energy and enthusiasm of the man that much of this advisory work overseas was undertaken in the ten years following his retirement in 1954, and much of it was undertaken in gruelling climates which would have exhausted a much younger man. Hammond himself summed it up very well by saying that he had never worked so hard as he did after he retired.

In spite of all his achievements both scientific and practical, and in spite of all the honours which were showered on him, Hammond always remained the same: a man of great humility, rather shy but friendly, and above all utterly honest and sincere. Some of his scientific views aroused controversy, but he made no enemies and was universally admired and respected.

R. W. Pomeroy

Dr. D. Landsborough Thomson

David Landsborough Thomson, lately vice-principal of McGill University and dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, died in the Veterans' Hospital at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec, on October 20, 1964. He had been an invalid for nearly three years as the result of a head injury from a fall on an icy sidewalk. Born in Old Aberdeen on November 14, 1901, he was the youngest child of Prof. (later Sir) J. Arthur Thomson, Regius professor of natural history, and of Margaret Stewart. He was educated at Aberdeen Grammar School and the University of Aberdeen with intervening periods at Grenoble and Graz. In 1925 he obtained an 1851 Exhibition senior studentship and proceeded to the University of Cambridge, working in biochemistry in the laboratory of Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins. During this period he wrote two books, *The Life of the Cell*, in the Home Library Series, and a prize-winning novel, *Murder in the Laboratory*, under the pen-name of "T. L. Davidson".

On graduation in 1928 he married Marian Stancliffe Collingwood, daughter of Arthur Collingwood. In the same year he accepted a position at McGill University, Montreal, as lecturer in biochemistry, with Prof. J. B. Collip. His rise in academic rank was rapid, with appointment as assistant professor in 1929, associate professor in 1933, and professor in 1936. He succeeded Prof. Collip as chairman in 1941 and in the following year was appointed dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, still carrying a heavy load of teaching. In 1947 he was appointed to the Gilman Cheney chair in biochemistry, and in 1955 was made vice-principal of McGill University. He relinquished the chairmanship of the Department of Biochemistry in 1960 but continued as vice-principal and dean. Thus he taught biochemistry for thirty-two years, and was dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies for more than twenty years. His continuing illness in 1963 finally made retirement necessary, and at the Spring Convocation of that year the University conferred on him the title of emeritus dean.

He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and of the Chemical Institute of Canada. For several years he served as a member of the National Research Council, the Fisheries Research Board, and the Canadian Council on Nutrition. During the Second World War he was a member of many committees and did special work for the Government. He was the first Canadian to be president of the American Association of Graduate Schools.

David Thomson was a man of extraordinary endowments. An avid and rapid reader with an exceptional memory, he kept abreast of a wide range of literature in the sciences, the humanities and in contemporary fiction. His considerable ability to recall facts and names enabled him to work quickly and use time efficiently. How he managed to read so widely in spite of doing more than one man's task remained a mystery even to those closely associated with him. His presentations had the air of being impromptu since he appeared to spend little conscious effort in their preparation. Organization and clear thinking were evident in his concise diction and his neat, uniform script. Natural as these abilities were, their perfection was the result of years of consistent effort.

Reason and a lively sense of humour dominated his personality. In the face of irritation or disappointment he maintained a wise equanimity. An unexcelled raconteur, his repertoire of witty stories, many of them of his own invention, seemed inexhaustible. He was in constant demand as a speaker both in the daytime and after dinner. On one occasion, when asked by a reporter what he intended to say in a speech that evening, his reply was: "I wish I knew myself".

David Thomson was first and foremost a teacher. He never tried to instruct but aimed to stimulate interest, to present a perspective and to provoke the student to think. He treated the student as a scholar rather than a pupil. Lectures were delivered in a clear and pleasant manner, spiced with wit and dry humour. Scores were inspired to follow a career in biochemistry or medicine and many who themselves became teachers sought to emulate him.

As an administrator he made few rules and respected the judgment of his colleagues, senior and junior. He was a leader in that he readily enlisted followers, but the quality of his leadership was catalytic rather than commanding.

When David Thomson came to McGill his responsibilities for developing and carrying out the teaching programme in biochemistry left little time for work in the laboratory. Within the first few months his reputation as a teacher had become established on the campus and widely beyond through students' letters. Though not a research 'worker', his colleagues always recognized him as an outstanding research 'thinker'. His correlation of the literature with the research problems at hand in itself created new knowledge.

He planned to devote his post-retirement years to writing, and would have had much to contribute especially in the fields of biochemistry and higher education. That this will not materialize is a tragedy.

A lover of music, poetry and art in all their manifold aspects, a creative scholar with a completely open mind, and, above all, an inspiring teacher, he was a legendary figure in the academic community. His influence will be transmitted through hundreds of students and colleagues who were privileged to have been associated with him.

He is survived by his wife, his brothers, Sir Landsborough and Dr. Ian, a sister, Mrs. F. Edwin, and a son, John Arthur Collingwood Thomson, who, as a marine biologist, carries on the family tradition.

J. S. L. Browne
O. F. Denstedt