In Memoriam

Paul Rode

1901–1948

Paul Rode, 47, postwar chief of Biological Museums in the French National Service and inspector general of the French Provincial Biological Museums, died on September 23 in Paris. He was the most productive mammalogist in France and the leading candidate for the professorship of zoology in the Paris Museum from which Edouard Bourdelle retired last year on account of age. The collaboration between Paul Rode and the eminent Paris surgeon, Robert Didier, was fortunate indeed for mammalogy. They were two of the foursome (Bourdelle and Bressou were the others) which inaugurated and carried into its 12th (1948) annual volume the French journal of mammalogy, *Mammalia*. Paul Rode pulled the heaviest load of anyone in that team, as he did in most undertakings in which he participated—never because he was aggressive but because his associates requested him to do so. His loyalty to them and to his science, along with his marvelous efficiency and great industry, were outstanding characteristics. Since he never took his responsibilities lightly, these admirable traits were his undoing, inasmuch as he literally wore out his heart in doing so long the work normal for several men. He is survived by his wife, Renée.

E. Raymond Hall

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William John Dann

1904–1948

William John Dann, professor of nutrition in the Duke University School of Medicine, died at his home in Durham, North Carolina on December 15, 1948, after a prolonged illness. Born in Bath, England on November 9, 1904, he received his formal training in the schools of Sheffield University. In 1925 he began graduate training in the Department of Biochemistry at Cambridge University which led to a Ph.D. in 1930. During these formative years, under the influence particularly of F. G. Hopkins, J. B. S. Haldane, and L. J. Harris, his interest in nutrition developed and thereafter his efforts were concentrated in this field. After receiving the doctorate, he remained in the Nutrition Laboratory at Cambridge for four years as Medical Research Scholar of the Worshipful Council of Grocers and as holder of the Beit Memorial Research Fellowship. During these years he published numbers of papers on the estimation of carotene and vitamin A, and on their metabolism.

In 1934 Dr. Dann came to Durham as assistant professor of physiology and nutrition and assumed responsibility for the teaching of nutrition in the Medical School, becoming professor of nutrition in 1946. Here his interest in vitamin A continued, and with his colleagues and graduate students he developed the first successful colorimetric assay for vitamin A and carotene. He continued to study the physiology of vitamin A deficiency in animals as well as man.

Since Durham was in the area within which pellagra was endemic at that time it was inevitable that he should become interested in the nutritional aspects of pellagra. After establishing that what had been described as "rat pellagra" was in truth due to a deficiency of vitamin B_6 and not of the PP factor, he collaborated with the late Y. Subba Row, then at Harvard, in a search for the actual PP principle. This search culminated in the isolation of nicotinic acid, which had not yet been biologically assayed when the announcement of the significance of this compound was made by the Wisconsin workers in 1937. Most of his scientific efforts in the years thereafter were devoted to a study of the physiological sequelae of niacin deficiency. In all, 58 scientific papers remain as his memorial, as well as vol. XII of the *Biological Symposia,* which he edited as his last scientific endeavor. He had also served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Nutrition* and of *Nutrition Reviews.*

Jack Dann carried over the objectivity of his scientific life to his thinking on all other matters. Remarkably free of preformed prejudices of any sort, he was in all matters a true liberal, forming his own opinion after mature, critical consideration of the subject at hand, yet ever willing to reconsider in the light of new facts.

While a student at Cambridge, he married Eileen Morley, who shared with him his chief interests away from the laboratory—namely, people, books, nature, and their four children. His loss is mourned not only by his family, his friends, and Duke University, but by the scientific community at large.

Philip Handler

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