

EDWARD JOHN BOURNE, 1922-1974

PRO SUMMA FIDE SUMMUS AMOR

With this inscription on a tablet in their cathedral's cloister, the people of Verona, long ago, expressed their gratitude to a leading citizen. It means: "For your utter fidelity, we give your memory our utmost love". Ted Bourne deserves no less from us. This volume of *Carbohydrate Research* is dedicated to his memory and contains contributions from his students, research collaborators, colleagues at the Royal Holloway College, members of the Chemical Society Carbohydrate Group, and members of the Editorial Board of this journal, and it is a lasting tribute to his work in the field of carbohydrate chemistry.

Edward John Bourne was born on New Year's Day 1922 and was only seventeen when he won a County Major Scholarship and entered the University of Birmingham. At that time, the head of the Chemistry Department was Nobel Laureate Professor W. N. (later Sir Norman) Haworth. Under the wartime conditions, only few formal lecture courses were available to the small group of chemists remaining, and Ted Bourne and his contemporaries were assigned projects. He became Maurice Stacey's assistant in the "Tube Alloys" team, which was concerned with a war effort to purify and estimate uranium compounds.

Bourne began his researches in Birmingham under the supervision of Stanley Peat. His first paper (with Haworth and Peat, in 1944) described the isolation of the Q-enzyme and already revealed the quintessence of his mind: meticulous attention to detail and perception of essentials. Thus began a life-long work on carbohydrates. He was a Lecturer at the age of twenty-two and was appointed Reader in 1955. He was only a year older when the University of London bore him away to its Chair of Chemistry and the headship of the Department of Chemistry in the Royal Holloway College.

The range of Ted Bourne's research interests was formidable: polysaccharides and their chemical and enzymic transformations; cyclic acetals, ketals, and boronates; complexes between carbohydrates and a variety of inorganic oxy-acids; the development of such new reagents as trifluoroacetic anhydride and the demethylating reagent boron trichloride; radiation-induced transformations; infrared spectroscopy; and methods of separating and identifying carbohydrates. He had a keen interest in the preparation of industrial chemicals from sugar, enjoyed good relations with the International Sugar Research Foundation, and maintained close and fruitful collaboration with the chemical industry.

Professor Bourne served on many committees of the learned societies and the University of London. He was Chairman of the Downland Section of the Royal Institute of Chemistry, a member of the Carbohydrate Nomenclature Committee of the Chemical Society, and a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *Carbohydrate*

Research since its inception. Especially, he became involved in the affairs of the Royal Holloway College where, for a time, he was Vice-Principal. Scrupulously fair in all matters, he never took advantage of his own influential position.

In his Department, the style he fashioned and the tone he adopted were those of concern for all who worked in it, on every staff and student level—a concern expressed quietly, with kindness and with tact. With all who worked with him, Ted enjoyed the closest personal friendship. However, he always regarded the care of the undergraduate and postgraduate students as his primary responsibility. The hushed delivery of his lectures made his audiences probably the quietest ever known. Whilst he neatly covered the blackboard with his highly individualistic, microscopic handwriting, he explained complex concepts in simple, unambiguous terms.

Active sport, from which Ted Bourne derived so much pleasure as a schoolboy, he returned to in later years. On November 30th 1974, he was playing his customary round of golf at Wentworth when coronary thrombosis ended his life.

All that Ted achieved rested on the foundation of a happy family life, first in Cannock with his parents and then with his wife Kath and son David in Virginia Water. The results of Professor Bourne's researches are recorded in over 200 scientific publications in co-authorship with 85 collaborators, an achievement that serves as an inspiration and challenge to others.

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