

Guest Editorial

A Rare Combination of Talents

This is a special issue of *The Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology* dedicated to the memory of Peter H. Elworthy.

When Professor Peter Howard Elworthy died in December 1995, Pharmacy lost a great man; not only was Peter an exceptional scientist publishing a large number of papers in a range of respected journals, but also someone who passionately believed in and promoted Pharmacy as a profession — a rare combination of traits these days.

It seems an entirely fitting tribute that a special issue of *The Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology* be dedicated to Peter as he was a frequent contributor throughout his distinguished scientific career spanning some 30 years. Indeed his very first and last papers (published in 1954 and 1990 respectively) appeared in the Journal. Although the study of surfactant systems by physicochemical techniques was his main research theme throughout his career, his papers in the Journal cover a range of subjects from ion exchange resins through the physical chemistry of lecithins to the synthesis of novel surfactants. As well as supporting the Journal, Peter was also an ardent supporter of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, and served as its Science Chairman in 1971.

In spite of his many academic achievements which are well documented, Peter was not a man who sought recognition for

himself, and was a very private person. Those of us who had the privilege to work closely with Peter and as a consequence got to know the person as well as the Scientist, realize that he was someone special. He was always a most meticulous and rigorous scientist and this is evidenced by the fact that his classic work with Karol Mysels on sodium dodecyl sulphate is still widely cited even today. Peter also had a great deal of imagination and this is well illustrated, for example, by his recognition of the potential to be afforded by microemulsions in drug delivery — a potential which is only now (some 20 years on) being exploited. Through a combination of his science and imagination, Peter influenced a great many scientists and a small number of those whom he touched have made contributions here.

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