

OBITUARY

W. Z. HASSID

An original member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *Phytochemistry*, Prof. W. Z. Hassid, passed away on 28 April 1974 in Berkeley, California at the age of 76. A warm person with a finely honed sense of humor, he directed a research program beginning in the mid-30's at the University of California, Berkeley in the field of plant carbohydrate biochemistry which rapidly gained an international reputation. His accomplishments are landmarks. His early interests were directed to the determination of structures of complex polysaccharides but as he delved deeper into these problems he shifted over to an intense examination of the biosynthesis of polysaccharides in the plant cell. Any chapter on carbohydrates in any textbook of biochemistry will always note his fundamental contributions to the understanding of the biosynthesis of sucrose, lactose, starch, cellulose and pectin to list just a few of the areas his laboratory covered. Moreover, in the training of young investigators in this field, his laboratory was an internationally known center, and many who are now leaders in this field were attracted to Berkeley to collaborate with Prof. Hassid.

Prof. Hassid was recognized by his colleagues by winning (jointly with Prof. M. Doudoroff and Prof. H. A. Barker) in 1945 the first Sugar Research Foundation Award, in 1964 the Charles Reid Barnes Honorary Life Membership Award of the American Society of Plant Physiologists and in 1967 the prestigious C. S. Hudson Award of the American Chemical Society. He was also a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

In public a rather shy person, on a personal basis he had a scintillating sense of humor and a fund of stories which were uproariously funny. A thoroughly civilized person who enjoyed good music, good food, good books—he has left his mark on American biochemistry and on his friends throughout the world.

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