Obituary Notice

HERBERT DAVENPORT KAY, FRS

(9 *September* 1893–24 *November* 1976)

Nutrition could be said to be at the centre of the astonishingly broad spread of interests making up the long and distinguished career of Herbert Kay. Graduating in Chemistry with Biochemistry at Manchester in 1914 Kay, after war service, specialized in biochemistry and worked with a series of famous men including Gowland Hopkins and J. B. S. Haldane. After initial studies on oxidative mechanisms he became increasingly involved in enzyme function and especially in phosphorus metabolism and the metabolic role of the phosphatases.

After three years in Toronto, Kay was appointed to succeed Dr Stenhouse Williams as Director of the National Institute for Research in Dairying at Shinfield in 1932 where he remained until his retirement in 1958.

Kay's influence on the development of nutritional science was great but indirect. He was a signatory of the invitation that resulted in the formation of the Nutrition Society in 1941 and a frequent attender at meetings, although he did not hold office in the Society. At the National Institute he encouraged the development of a strong Nutrition Department, under S. K. Kon, devoted initially to the study of the nutrients of milk. His own great contribution to the increased use of milk was of course his development, with W. R. Graham, of the Kay-Graham Phosphatase Test for efficient pasteurization. Not the least of Kay's support of nutrition was his encouragement to colleagues to participate in Society affairs and his provision for many years of an editorial office for this Journal.

After his retirement from Shinfield, Kay's energies were transferred to setting up the Twyford Laboratories, where he remained as Director until 1962.

In his many international assignments, and in particular those with FAO, UNICEF and the International Dairy Federation, Kay's great knowledge was applied to the improvement of nutrition, especially in children, in developing countries. He was a firm advocate of the essential role of technological expertize in increasing the food available to the deprived populations of the world.

It was perhaps this wider and central involvement in nutritional matters that led Kay in his later years to expand his interests in dairy science to include food science as a whole. He was active throughout the formation of the UK Council for Food Science and Technology, its first Chairman and a member of Council until his death; he also played a leading role in setting up the International Union of Food Science and Technology.

Herbert Kay will be remembered for his encyclopaedic knowledge, for his tremendous enthusiasm and astonishing energy at all times, and for his firm conviction that a hard core of fundamental research is the soundest basis for technological advance. Many, including the writer, have good cause to remember with gratitude his kindness and his ability to encourage young scientists at the most vulnerable and tentative stage of their careers.

C. C. BALCH

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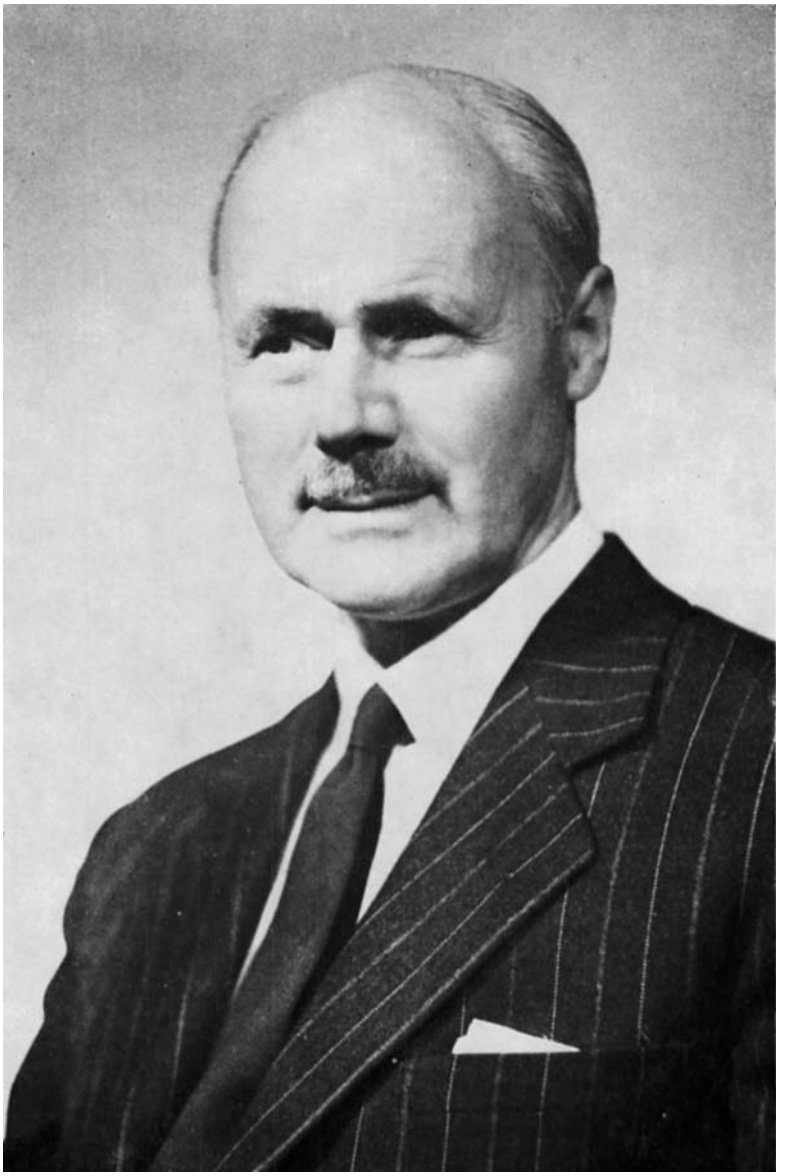

H. D. KAY