

## OBITUARY

RALPH FRANCIS NAYLOR, Ph.D.

News of the untimely death of Professor Naylor, in an automobile accident in Northern Nigeria, August 6, 1961, brought deep sorrow to his many friends and associates.

Dr. Naylor received his early training in chemistry at the Imperial College, London, and was granted his B.Sc. by the University of London in 1941, with special honors in physics and chemistry. He received the degree of Ph.D. from the University of London in 1944.

During the next five years Naylor was engaged in research on the chemistry of organic sulfur compounds at the British Rubber Producer's Association, and in teaching at Northern Polytechnic (University of London). In 1949, his humanitarian instincts led him to accept a post as Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry, Makerere College, the University College of East Africa, Kampala, Uganda. In addition to his teaching duties he devoted a portion of his boundless energy to promoting the athletic, social and spiritual interests of students. In this he served as a nonprofessional missionary.

His concern for persons with leprosy and his knowledge of organic sulfur compounds directed his interest toward a more adequate understanding of the mode of action of DDS in the treatment of leprosy. In this connection he spent the year 1953-54 in the Leonard Wood Memorial Bacteriology Laboratory at the Harvard Medical School. The major results of this year's inquiries into the mode of action of DDS on cultivable mycobacteria have been published in *THE JOURNAL* only recently [**26** (1958) 313-317; **29** (1961) 56-64]. A portion of his further work on the metabolism of *M. leprae* recovered from treated and untreated leprosy patients was reported at the International Congress of Leprosy, Tokyo, 1958. More recently he had familiarized himself with radioisotopic methods in order to pursue this work more analytically. During this time, Naylor served for the Mission to Lepers (London) in a variety of capacities.

Upon the establishment of a second university college in East Africa, the Royal College at Nairobi, Kenya, Naylor was appointed to the Chair of Chemistry, and undertook these duties in January, 1961.

Professor Naylor was a quiet, modest man. It may be that only those who worked with him can appreciate the remarkable combination of qualities with which he was endowed.

He is remembered in some quarters as a cross-country runner; in others as a man who loved to climb high or inaccessible mountains. Those who could walk his pace deserve classification as "pacers" or "trotters." He did not permit a "lift" to elevate him when stairs were at hand to strengthen his legs and increase his wind.

An exceptional intellect was directed by curiosity, imagination and judgment. At the same time, no minor technicality was beneath his consideration or escaped his thoroughness. No labor, new or old, seemed difficult. He was not known to speak in haste or irritation, or to be offended. His Christianity fitted him so well that he wore it in silence and comfort.

These, then, are some of the qualities which separated an energetic and successful chemist from the enticements of the rubber industry of London and of Harvard. They directed his investigations with humanitarian purpose but with scientific detachment. They caused him to devote his professional and personal life to institutions and to peoples where he was truly needed. Here was a chemist who balanced his weights at a point where he was more certain to give than to get.

For those who have associated with Professor Naylor, the sense of sorrow and loss is assuaged in part by gratitude for having known him at all, for the opportunity of sharing ideas and work, and for the privilege of recalling his warmth and integrity.

Professor Naylor is survived by his wife and by their son, to whom we wish to express our sincerest sympathy and best wishes.

—J. H. HANKS