J.B. Or sometimes when he got home he had heard something on the news and he was so upset that he would have to call people. I connect his continued sense of outrage about anything political that upset him with his intense enthusiasm and involvement in his scientific work. He never mellowed in that sense.

M.D. He was always in the lab. before anyone else. He was so enthusiastic that he would have got everyone's plates out of the incubator before they came in.

J.B. It seems amazing to me that he maintained that involvement until the end—that it never dissipated.

M.D. He was talking once about a scientist who was retiring and was going to retire to live in Europe. He said "How can a man live like that without science? If I didn't have something to look forward to every day, what would my life be?".

He was not encouraging in that he would say: "That was a really nice experiment". But it was his enthusiasm that was so overwhelming. He tried to have a personal relationship with everyone in the lab. And discussions about projects, although sometimes heated, were usually fruitful, amicable, encouraging and often hilarious.

J.B. He was physically very active. A few years ago he was climbing mountains in the Dominican Republic.

M.D. We went to Mount Washington once, we drove to the top. We climbed down a way and then climbed back up to the car. He was really amazing. He was walking at a good pace, while everyone else was struggling up.

J.B. He was always telling jokes or funny stories. When he entered this country as an immigrant, he had to answer some questions. One of the questions was about adultery. Luigi answered the interviewer by asking "Do you want a yes or no answer or number of times".

M.D. He was such a good teacher to people in the lab. about life and about everything.

Jon Beckwith
Margaret Duncan

John Donald Rose, FRS, who died on October 14 was a former Research and Development Director of Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd. He was born on January 2, 1911 in Rotherham, near Sheffield and went to Rotherham Grammar School before reading chemistry at Jesus College, Oxford. Throughout his life, he never lost a certain bluff "no nonsense" Yorkshire earthiness. He was also a man of quite exceptional kindness and generosity of spirit, and had a well-developed sense of the ludicrous. The combination of these qualities was exceedingly attractive and it was well-nigh impossible not to like "J.D."

He took a First in chemistry at Oxford, and was awarded a Salters' Institute Fellowship, part of which he chose to spend working in Prof. L. Ruzicka's laboratory at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule in Zurich. He joined the Research Department of the Dyestuffs Division of ICI at Blackley in 1935 and is believed to have been the first person to make a sample of Nylon 66 in this country, just as he was later to be one of the first ICI men to develop Whinfield's recently discovered polyethylene terephthalate ("Terylene"). During the war he was a member of, and later head of an Exploratory Research Section, and carried out a thorough investigation of the chemistry of the nitroparaffins. At the end of the war, he was deeply involved in the detailed examination of unpublished German war-time research, and his good working knowledge of German made him a valuable interrogator. Characteristically he was kind and generous to German scientists who were being held as possible war criminals. Thereafter, he was rapidly promoted, becoming Research Director of the Dyestuffs Division in 1951.

It was during his term as Research Director that Rattee and Stevens discovered the reactive cotton dyes, the "Procions." J.D. knew very well that the ICI patent position and technological lead were not initially very strong, and he showed great courage in deploying a major effort, fully supported by his colleagues on the Development side, to get the "Procions" on to the market very quickly—in fact within two years. Considerable faith was needed to persuade the dyeing industry to adopt totally new techniques and concepts, but the venture succeeded and the first three dyestuffs were soon expanded into a full range.

In 1959 he was transferred to the Paints Division as joint Managing Director, becoming Chairman in 1964. In 1966 he joined the ICI Board as member responsible for research and development. He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1971 in recognition of "his contributions to chemical science and its utilisation in industry." After his retirement in 1972 he held office as Master of the Salters' Company (1973), an honour which gave him particular pleasure.

It would be wrong to suggest that J.D. was an outstandingly original scientist—he never claimed to be one. His talent was a great clearness of mind, sound judgement and the ability to guide and encourage those associated with him. Many ICI scientists would gladly agree that their own developments or discoveries owe something, often far from negligible, to him.

He died at the age of 65, leaving a widow, son and daughter, and four grandchildren.

M. A. T. Rogers

Dr Alfred E. Emerson, the world famous termitologist died on Sunday October 3, 1976 at Glenn Falls, New York.

He was born in Ithaca and was educated there, at Cornell University. In 1922 he became an Associate Professor in the Department of Zoology at Pittsburgh University, but moved to Chicago in 1929, to remain there for the rest of his academic career, becoming an Emeritus Professor in 1962.

His major research was on the taxonomy of termites, regarded by the uninitiated merely as pests, but to Dr Emerson fascinating social creatures, posessing, as they do, a large measure of self-sacrifice, a trade union system that runs with a minimum of demarcation disputes, and very sophisticated engineering—some termites air-condition their nests by humidity and heat control (sometimes by using the metabolic heat producton of fungi deliberately brought into the nest for the purpose) and by the cunning design of interconnecting air shafts.

In his research he travelled extensively, living on occasion in tribal villages in the remote jungles of Borneo and the Congo, capturing, cataloguing and classifying termites. His collection, built up over half a century of expeditions, comprises of 1,645 species (to Emerson's chagrin, only 93 per cent. of the known world total) and is preserved, pickled in alcohol, in the Museum of Natural History in New York, to whom Emerson presented it in 1964. It has already proved invaluable to termitologists from all over the world. The fascination of the termite world is conveyed by a book *Termite City* which, together with his wife, née Eleanor Fish, he wrote for children.

This was just one of his numerous publications, dealing with his primary research, evolution (he was a proponent of the controversial but now largely discredited theory of the Superorganism) and ecology. He became interested in ecology long before it was fashionable; he was elected president of the Ecological Society of America in 1941, and, amongst the many honours showered on him, was named 'Eminent Ecologist' by them in 1967.