

After his retirement from the chair at Imperial College in 1973, he became Emeritus Professor. He continued to travel widely, aided by his ability to lecture in five languages. Honours and decorations came from many Universities and Governments including France, Italy and Japan, and Chain continued his long, active association with the Weitzman Institute as a Governor.

An abiding memory for his family and friends must be the marvellous occasion in 1976 when Sir Ernst was guest of honour at a dinner held at the Middle Temple Hall to mark his 70th birthday. A crowded scientific programme had been given at the Royal Society over the preceding two days by his closest collaborators. This programme reflected Sir Ernst's research contributions in food technology and non-specific immunity as well as microbial and physiological biochemistry. Fortuitously news came through of his eldest son's first class honours in zoology at Cambridge. After dinner and the speeches (Sir Ernst almost lost for words for once), the entertainment for the distinguished international audience was opened by Sir Ernst and Benjamin Chain playing piano duets with great panache and empathy — a fitting reminder that the gain of science and medicine from the work and life of Ernst Chain was a loss to the concert hall and the world of music.

K. R. L. Mansford

Sir Harry Champion

SIR HARRY CHAMPION, CIE, Emeritus Professor of Forestry in the University of Oxford, died on 19 June 1979. He was born in 1891 and was educated at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford. He was at Kings College, London University, for a year before going up, as a Commoner, to New College, Oxford in 1909. The subsequent award of a college scholarship was the first of his many academic achievements at Oxford. In 1912 he took a first in chemistry, in 1913 a first in botany and in 1914, under William Schlich, a Diploma in Forestry with distinction.

In 1912 he was accepted as a probationer in the Indian Forest Service and after spending a year in the United States on a Carnegie Travelling Scholarship to study entomology he went to India in October 1915.

Champion was appointed Assistant Conservator of Forests in the United Provinces, where P.H. Clutterbuck, later Inspector General of Forests, was Chief Conservator. At an early stage in his career he demonstrated clearly his versatility. In 1916 he was Acting Forest Entomologist at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, and in 1921 Silviculturist for the United Provinces. As a District Officer he compiled a check list of the fauna of the West Almora Division and also effectively modified the condensing equipment on

plant used to distill tar from Chir pine. For the latter he was commended by the Governor of the Province. He was mentioned in other reports for extracting the maximum amount of wood from a very difficult location. At this time he also showed that twisted fibre in Chir pine, a very damaging defect of this species, was a heritable character and not an effect of site conditions.

For the academic year 1924/25, while on leave pending retirement, he held the post of Silviculturist under Troup at the Imperial Forestry Institute, Oxford. In 1925 he married Chrystal Parsons, the grand-daughter of an Indian Army officer and decided to return to India — a momentous decision.

From 1925 until 1936 Champion was seconded to the Department of Education, Health and Lands of the Government of India and appointed Silviculturist at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun. As Central Silviculturist he carried out research in a great variety of silvicultural projects, including natural forest regeneration and the establishment of plantations, as well as engaging in the preparation of yield tables and entomological problems.

He travelled extensively in India, and visited Burma and the Andaman Islands. In 1934/35 he was loaned to the Government of Ceylon to advise on forestry. From his experimental work and travelling he acquired an unparalleled knowledge of Indian forestry. During this period he also toured in the United States, Canada and the Far East. He visited most of the European forest research establishments and established himself as a forester of international repute.

In 1937 Champion returned to the United Provinces where he held the posts of Divisional Forest Officer, Conservator of Forests and Conservator of Working Plans acquiring experience of forest administration at senior level. He seemed destined to go to the top in the Indian Forestry Services, but in 1940 again changed the course of his career by accepting the Chair of Forestry at Oxford and the directorship of the Imperial Forestry Institute, as successor to Troup.

Champion's first notable achievement at Oxford was the establishment, in 1944, of an Honours School of Forestry. As Professor of Forestry he was *ex officio* Consultant Director to the Commonwealth Forestry Bureau and provided for the first Director, J.W.B. Sisam, and later Henry Ford Robertson, encouragement, advice and support to establish that most useful and efficient organisation. He also strengthened the scientific basis of teaching and research in forestry by the appointment of biological scientists. Between 1940 and 1959 he travelled extensively with forestry classes on the continent, on advisory missions and lecture tours to most of the British colonies, and to

attend international conferences. His experience in forestry was then world wide and he continued to make best use of it by writing and advising.

After his retirement in 1959 he was appointed Emeritus Professor in 1960 and until 1967 undertook further advisory missions and consulting assignments. In 1962/63 he was engaged by the Government of India to revise the silvicultural textbooks he had written when at Dehra Dun and had a similar assignment for the Government of Pakistan in 1963/64.

Champion published work, mainly in the Indian Forest Records, on every aspect of forestry, including research methods, statistics, working plans and ecology as well as silviculture. His interest in research methods is apparent from his *Silvicultural Research Manual for India, Vol. I: General*, and *Vol. II* (with I.D. Mahendru): *Statistical Code*, 1931. The results of his experimental work and his general observations were incorporated in a *Manual of Indian Silviculture* (with Sir Gerald Trevor) which has now been revised twice (in 1968 with S.K. Seth). In 1965, together with C.M. Khattak and S.K. Seth he prepared a similar manual for Pakistan. Of necessity, most of his time was devoted to matters of immediate and practical importance, but he was very concerned about the scientific basis of forestry and his *Forest Types of India and Burma* (1931, revised with S.K. Seth in 1968) is a major contribution to forest ecology.

Champion's work in India was acknowledged in 1941 by the award of Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire and his scientific achievements by an Oxford DSc in 1950. For his services to forestry in general he was made a Knight Bachelor in 1956. He was chairman of the Commonwealth Forestry Association from 1959 to 1961, president of the Society of Foresters of Great Britain in 1958 and 1959 and an honorary member of many national forestry societies. In 1969 he was given the Fernow Medal, awarded jointly by the American Forestry Association and the German Forestry Society.

Twenty classes of Oxford undergraduates and hundreds of foresters from every part of the world have been entertained in unique style by the Champions at Windrush. Some of us that were members of his earlier classes have further reason to be particularly grateful to them for many other kindnesses, among them dispensation to bring, what Chrystal Champion called our "probationary forest wives", on field tours.

Finally it is my privilege to put on record the immense contribution made by Chrystal Champion to the life and achievements of Harry Champion. She was keenly interested in his work, shared his fondness for travelling and perhaps persuaded him to return to India. It was a perfect match and good for forestry.

J.F. Hughes