OBITUARY

Roger John Cameron, B.Sc(N.Z.), B.A. Hons(Oxon), Ph.D.(Canberra), 1928-1979

Roger Cameron died last August, shortly after retiring from the Forest Service on grounds of ill health. Born in Nelson, he joined the Forest Service as a technical trainee at the age of 18. From that time his whole working career was in forestry. After obtaining degrees in science and forestry, he was appointed forester in Murupara for 3 years. Following this he came to the Forest Research Institute in 1956 to lead a research team on native forest management. When the project was stopped in 1962, he moved to the Australian National University under a Commonwealth Fund Scholarship, obtaining a Ph.D. there.

Returning to FRI in 1965, he became Research Field Leader of a new group, Tree Physiology, with responsibility for equipping and staffing it. He was responsible for the design and construction of the large controlled environment rooms, as well as for planning Stage 2 of FRI's new buildings.

Appointed Branch Head Forest Sciences in 1972, he became responsible for five separate Production Forestry research fields and did much to place forestry research more firmly on a scientific footing. His generosity of ideas and foresight were strongly evident in this new role, and he pushed firmly his belief that, for real improvement in many forest management practices, a better understanding was needed of basic tree growth processes.

Within FRI, Roger was known as a man who placed more importance on people than on things. He was always ready to discuss a person's work and problems and could be relied upon to provide not only helpful and often innovative advice, but also a touch of humour.

His interest in people was nowhere more obvious than in his outside involvement in the Rotorua Junior Naturalists and the Okataina Education and Recreation Centre. He co-founded
the Junior Naturalist group and ran it for nine years. The warm relationships he built up with successions of members reflected not only his wide interest in natural sciences, but also his concern for young people. As a member of the Okataina Trust he was totally committed to the need for these outdoor facilities and gave a tremendous amount of time and effort to planning and supervising construction.

Roger was a member of the Institute of Foresters for 28 years, starting as a student, and was Secretary for the period 1972-74. His loss will be widefelt within the Institute, the Forest Service, and the scientific community.

Sincere condolences are extended to his wife, Jill, and their four children.

G.B.S.

Professor Sir Harry George Champion, C.I.E. (1891-1979)

Another of the great giants of forestry has fallen with the recent passing of Sir Harry Champion. His distinguished career spanned more than sixty years of British Empire and Commonwealth Forestry.

After graduating B.A. from New College, Oxford, he joined the Indian Forest Service in 1915 and was ultimately appointed Conservator of Forests, United Provinces, in 1938. His contribution to Indian forestry was specially recognised when he received the Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire in 1941.

He was appointed to the Chair of Forestry at Oxford in 1940 and held this post until his retirement in 1959. During this time he was responsible for many changes designed to improve the quality of forestry education.

These developments and Sir Harry’s own personal qualities greatly enhanced the prestige of the Oxford Forestry School and at the same time helped to improve the professional status of forestry graduates. The knighthood conferred on Sir Harry in 1956 set its seal on a truly outstanding forestry career.