

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NUTRITION SOCIETY

The Two Hundred and Sixty-fifth Scientific Meeting (One Hundred and Fifth Scottish Meeting) was held at the School of Agriculture, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen AB9 1UD, on 21 March 1974

SYMPOSIUM ON 'ADVANCES IN TECHNIQUES RELATING TO RUMINANT NUTRITION'

Chairman's opening remarks

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The importance of increasing the world's supply of food and the major contribution that ruminant livestock are making and will continue to make in the foreseeable future to world food supplies need but little emphasis. The necessity of maximizing productivity from such animals is clearly important, not least because of the steadily rising cost of feedstuffs, but this demands much more knowledge of the ruminant animal than man to date possesses. We need to know the factors that control food intake, to have a detailed knowledge of the processes of digestion and quantitative data on the end products arising and, finally, to understand the over-all metabolic processes occurring within the body and the mechanisms that control these processes, before we can understand the over-all relationships between food intake and product output, be it in the form of meat, milk or wool. It is my firm conviction that as such knowledge is obtained we will increasingly be able to exploit these animals for the benefit of mankind.

The obtaining of such knowledge demands the continual development and application of specialized techniques. As research workers, we are all aware of new developments in different fields and it is a great advantage to have the opportunity of discussing their merits, and assessing their applicability in specialized fields. Furthermore, it is necessary to ensure that such techniques are reliable and to understand their limitations. This is the theme of the symposium today and I know I speak for all in congratulating those charged with the responsibility on behalf of the Nutrition Society for choosing this subject for discussion today.

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