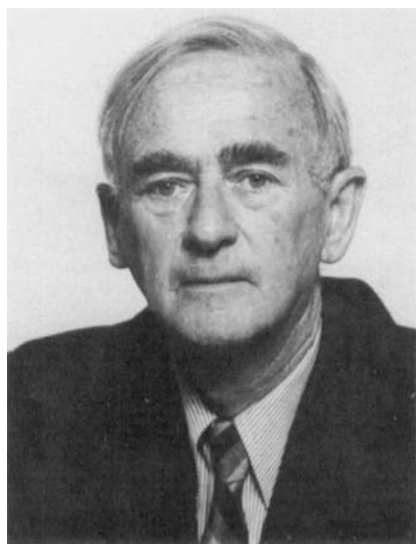


Obituary Notice

RUSSELL J. ALLEN
(1914–1989)



Dr Allen, who died on 18 March 1989, was an early member of the Nutrition Society and maintained an active interest in the affairs of the Society, having served as Programmes Secretary and then Honorary Secretary between 1953 and 1962.

Born in Australia and educated at the Universities of Western Australia and Melbourne where he obtained his MSc, Dr Allen moved to the UK where he studied biochemistry at the University of Cambridge under Gowland Hopkins, and where he was awarded his PhD. Part of this work led to the, at that time, well-recognized Allen method of estimating serum phosphate.

During World War II Dr Allen worked at the Low Temperature Research Laboratory at Cambridge before being seconded to the Ministry of Food, serving for a while with the British Food

Mission in Washington. On his return he continued his studies into dehydration of food before moving to industry in 1945.

In 1955 Dr Allen joined Beecham Foods and became Research Controller of the Beecham Group and finally a member of the main board at Beecham.

During his time in industry, Dr Allen never forgot his scientific roots and set an example of how industry and academia can usefully combine to the advantage of both. While at Beecham he published papers on carbohydrate metabolism and ascorbic acid status in the *British Journal of Nutrition*, and from 1970 to 1975 he was visiting Professor of Applied Nutrition in the University of London at Guy's Hospital Medical School. Dr Allen's judgement was much valued and for this and his academic/industrial experience he was a member of the UK Food Standards Committee for many years. He was also chairman of the Nutrition Committee of the Food & Drink Federation and vice-president of the British Nutrition Foundation. Dr Allen played a large part in the setting up of a European branch of the International Life Sciences Institute. International organizations such as the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization and Codex Alimentarius at one time or another called on him for advice.

His advice and encouragement was sought by dietitians; he was the first chairman of the Dietitians Board of the Council of the Professions Supplementary to Medicine, and at the time of his death was the President of the British Dietetic Association.

In 1974 Dr Allen was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire for services to nutritional science.

Dr Allen, an unassuming person, was pleased to help others when asked for advice, and was uncompromising in scientific evaluations. His contributions to discussions were always useful and his judgement was well balanced. His interests were cats, the opera and gardening.

I. MACDONALD