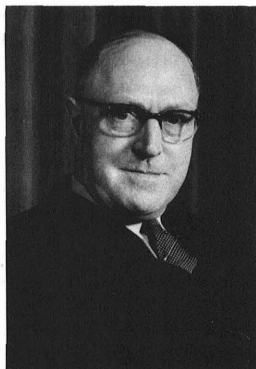


John Grainger, 1904-1978

M. R. M. Clark



Dr. John Grainger, who died on 20th October 1978 at the age of 74 after a long illness, was Head of the Plant Pathology Department at the West of Scotland Agricultural College, Auchincruive, from 1943 until he retired in 1969. During that time, he consolidated and added to the work of his predecessor, Dr. D. G. O'Brien, and founded the present modern department that specializes in research, development, and advisory work in crop protection. He extended his interest in crop disease loss assessment and control from a detailed approach in West Scotland to an appraisal of the position and opportunities in other countries including those of the Third World. This was recognized in his delivery of a paper at a conference of FAO in Rome in 1967. That was only one, however, of many such lectures he delivered all over the world. His interest in nematology and practical knowledge of engineering, both rare attributes in plant pathologists, led to the development of

machines for the intimate mixing of small quantities of pesticides into the soil and to the award of Silver Medals at the Highland Show in 1951 and the Royal Agricultural Show in 1959. These machines also were shown at the 7th Symposium of the Society of European Nematologists which was held at Auchincruive in 1963. His Auchincruive Blight Forecast Recorder is still widely in use. His concept of the physiological receptivity of plants in terms of the ' C_p/R_s ratio' elucidated certain apparent anomalies in plant development and emphasized the importance of the crop response in host-parasite relationships.

Dr. Grainger's geniality and friendliness, no less than the merit of his special and original professional contributions to the field of Plant Pathology, earned the rare distinction of an entry in the 1968 *World Who's Who in Science*. Shortly after his retirement he was elected an emeritus member of the American Phytopathological Society and nine years later was honored by a request from the editors of the Annual Review of Phytopathology for an article reflecting the direct practical application of his work to the farming industry. In spite of his increasing ill-health this article was completed; its appearance in the 17th volume of the Review next August will surely be a fitting and enduring reminder of a man of great character and inspired scientific achievement.

He is survived by his wife, to whom he was so happily married for 47 years.