

## II. OBITUARIES

Ernest G. Anderson, 1891-1973

Friends and colleagues of Professor Ernest G. Anderson were saddened to learn of his death January 30 of this year at his home in Columbia, Missouri. He would have been 82 on March 3.

A native of Nebraska and a graduate of the University of Nebraska, he took his advanced training with Professor R. A. Emerson at Cornell University. During the 1922-23 academic year while teaching at C. C. N. Y., he had the opportunity of working in the laboratory of Professor T. H. Morgan at Columbia University during an exciting era of *Drosophila* genetics. Dr. Anderson often remarked on his good fortune in being associated with this early period of *Drosophila* work. He also expressed his admiration for the rigorous scientific standards of Professor Emerson and for his leadership in establishing a tradition of cooperation among maize geneticists.

From 1923 to 1928, Dr. Anderson was a member of the Botany Department at the University of Michigan. During the 1920's he published a number of significant contributions in *Drosophila* genetics. In 1928, he joined the faculty of the California Institute of Technology, where he remained until his retirement in 1961. During this period, he accumulated a large collection of chromosome rearrangements in maize and conducted extensive mapping studies with reciprocal translocations.

In 1946, Dr. Anderson agreed to cooperate in the study of the biological effects of the Bikini atom bomb test by analyzing mutations induced in maize. Later, the program was extended to include mutations induced by the atom bomb test at Eniwetok and by monitored dosages of ionizing radiation applied at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and elsewhere. Over a period of years, this work was supported in part by successive grants from the Office of Naval Research. Anderson had an active collaborator in Dr. A. E. Longley, Geneticist with the Agricultural Research Service, who determined the interchange points of more than one thousand chromosome rearrangements.

Throughout this period and for the remainder of his life, Dr. Anderson devoted most of his research effort to these hundreds of induced

gene and chromosome mutations. Both before and after his formal retirement, he spent a great deal of time in verifying and increasing the stocks and in assisting personally to ensure their orderly transfer to the Maize Cooperation Genetic Stock Collection.

As a scientist, he was dedicated, painstaking and thorough. While he sometimes professed to be lazy, his associates learned to interpret this remark as indicating his strong preference for the thoughtful, simple, incisive approach to a problem as contrasted to a frontal assault by sheer energy. Those who worked with him came to appreciate the directness and economy of his methods.

While he disliked crowds and was impatient with pretense or superficiality, he genuinely enjoyed people as individuals and was uncommonly patient, helpful and encouraging to those who sincerely sought his assistance or counsel. Even to those who were aware of his wide-ranging curiosity, the breadth of his knowledge and interests was a continuing source of surprise. Stimulating in conversation, appreciative of humor, he had an unassuming, gracious, warm personality; one could feel totally comfortable with him whether sharing conversation or silence.

Scientists have lost a respected colleague and humanity a humanitarian. To members of Dr. Anderson's family I offer my sincere sympathy. In knowing him more intimately, they must feel still more deeply the full dimensions of the loss.

E. B. Patterson

#### Avraham Shlomi - Israel's corn man

One week before Avraham Shlomi was to celebrate his retirement after 25 years of leadership in Israel's corn breeding research program, he was tragically killed in an automobile accident on his way to work. Shlomi was for years the only individual in Israel working in corn breeding. His dedication to his work was an example for many scientists in Israel. He was called by many "Mr. Corn".

Shlomi was born in Austria in 1904. In 1921, he resigned from his studies at the University of Prague in order to fulfill his dream - to leave

and work in the Jewish homeland. From the day of his arrival in Israel, Shlomi gave his all to agricultural development. In 1946 he went to the U.S. to study the new methods of hybrid corn breeding. On his return to Israel in 1948 he established the department of corn breeding. Until his death, he headed this department. During his life's work he developed 15 different commercial hybrids, some of which are in use in other countries. In the last several years of his life, he put most of his energy and knowledge into the development of maize varieties suited for use in underdeveloped nations.

Shlomi's goal in life was corn development and not personal achievements. Therefore, theoretical research and subsequent publication of results were considered, by him, as a waste of time. One of his greatest contributions was the development of variety x inbred line commercial hybrids. These hybrids are especially adapted to marginal farming areas and underdeveloped countries.

Y. Efron