

Sixtieth Birthday of Ralph Stock

Chromatographia has great pleasure in congratulating one of its editors, Professor Ralph Stock on his 60th birthday in March. Ralph was born in London but grew up in Salisbury. His younger years had a considerable literary bias. As a child he attended school in Bemerton which has close associations with the 17th century poet George Herbert; from there he progressed to Bishop Wordsworth (relative to the poet) School, Salisbury where he was taught briefly by William Golding, later to become a Nobel Laureate for literature.

In spite of (or because of?) these associations with the arts Ralph left school to become an assistant in a metallurgy laboratory until he joined the R.A.F. for National Service. He then studied for a London University degree at what is now Exeter University followed by a PhD under S.J. Gregg on the adsorption of hydrocarbons on various inorganic salts. This work generated a lifelong interest in chromatography in all its forms.

After a short period at the British Ceramics Research Association he took up his first teaching post at Wolverhampton and he has remained in the field of education ever since. He moved to Liverpool Polytechnic in 1958 and stayed there until 1965, at which point he was Principal Lecturer in inorganic chemistry. It was during this period that he wrote, in conjunction with C.B. Rice a popular student textbook on chromatography recently re-issued in a new and revised edition. Also under his direction Liverpool Polytechnic was one of the first edu-

cational establishments in the U.K. to offer short courses on chromatography. He joined Trent Polytechnic as Head of the Science Department and supervised a staff increase from 15 in 1965 to over 70 by 1972; in 1980 the title of Professor was conferred upon him.

Ralph has been closely associated with the Gas Chromatography Discussion Group (now the Chromatographic Society) since its inception and was instrumental in finding its current headquarters in Trent Polytechnic when the Group parted company with the Institute of Petroleum in 1972. He has been Chairman of the Society and was editor of the 1970 Dublin symposium. The Society awarded him the Martin Medal in 1984 and made him an Honorary Life Member the following year. He was also one of the recipients of the Tswett Memorial Medal awarded by the Soviet Academy of Science in 1978.

Ralph has recently retired from Trent Polytechnic but has retained his links with education by taking up the post of Head of Department and Professor of Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry at the new Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman which will admit its first students in September.

We wish Ralph, his wife Dorothy, and his family every happiness and success in the future.

Fred Adlard