

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Obituary: James Lamb Hardie BSc(Agr), PhD, NDD, CDD, FRAgS

Dr James Hardie died at his home in Edinburgh on 10 January 1979 after several months' illness borne with great courage and characteristic reserve.

Jim Hardie's identification with his work went back to the family farm in Peeblesshire. In 1937, he graduated at Edinburgh University as Bachelor of Science, in Agriculture and in the following year he obtained a Diploma in Dairying from the West of Scotland Agricultural College and qualified also for the National Diploma in Dairying.

He joined the Department of Agriculture for Scotland as an Assistant Agricultural Inspector in 1939. He started work at what was then the Plant Registration Station, East Craigs, Edinburgh (now part of Agricultural Scientific Services of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland) on pre-registration trials of new potato varieties, disease assessment and seed certification and on the maintenance of the collections of potato varieties and diseases. In 1941 he was promoted to Inspector and became responsible for all work of the Potato Section at East Craigs as well as for other general inspection duties elsewhere. It was in these early years that he began to consider opportunities for fundamental improvement to the potato crop both in health and in type.

He returned to full-time potato work at East Craigs in 1945 and after obtaining a Doctorate of Philosophy from Edinburgh University in 1950 he assumed charge of an expanded Potato Section. His tasks were to look after the collections, arrange pre-registration trials of new varieties, and in collaboration with interested growers and colleagues, to launch a scheme for the production of virus-tested seed potatoes. For this scheme, he had to isolate virus-free nuclear stocks of acceptable type in all commercial varieties and to organise this new sector of the seed potato industry: its success is now part of history.

The next important advance was discerned in the 1960s when it became clear that skinspot, blackleg, and gangrene were to an important degree associable with the stock, so that the door was open to their control through clean seed. Work at Rothamsted suggested that skinspot might be escaped by starting with clonal stocks derived from rooted stem cuttings and, with an added requirement to test the cuttings also for blackleg bacteria, the concept was grafted into the Department's Virus-Tested Stock scheme. Again, to Jim Hardie fell the task of managing a new procedure whereby tested tubers were produced at a nuclear stock farm run by the Department from which they were distributed to a small number of selected growers now to become responsible for the basic health of much of the British potato crop. There were difficulties and disappointments, and problems remain, but Dr Hardie sought to adapt the procedure

as further knowledge was acquired about the epidemiology and control of the non-viral tuber-borne diseases.

Dr Hardie was in charge of the Potato and Plant Health Division of Agricultural Scientific Services. His advice was sought from many parts of the world. He was active on a number of government committees on seed potato certification and the work leading to registration of new cultivars. He served as consultant to the Seed Potato Advisory Committee of the Potato Marketing Board and sat on its Research Committee. He was a key figure in the Group of Experts convened by the United Nation's Economic Commission for Europe on standardisation for seed potatoes and he represented the United Kingdom agricultural departments also with regard to the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV). He was an active member of the European Association for Potato Research since its inception. In recognition of his services to the potato industry in the United Kingdom he was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Agricultural Society in 1970 and in 1975 he was presented with the Haigh Trophy of the National Association of Seed Potato Merchants.

Jim Hardie combined knowledge, experience and skill with a friendly and approachable disposition. To growers, scientists and administrators alike he was seen to understand where problems lay and how they might be solved. He was reserved about his own accomplishments which in private life included a great interest in drawing and painting, but he was always delighted to expand on his enthusiasms with those who shared them. Jim Hardie gained strength from his family; and it is to his wife, daughter and son that we extend our sympathy.

Council Notices

Procedure followed by the Editors of 'Potato Research' after a paper has been submitted

For the information of authors of papers for 'Potato Research', the procedure followed by the Editors after a paper has been submitted, is given below. This procedure is not new; it has been used for many years.

1. A paper received by an editor, a member of the Editorial Board or an Association Representative, is sent to Wageningen for registration. It is then sent to one of the editors, depending on its disciplinary content, the language in which it is written, and the country of its origin, i.e. if possible it will be sent to an editor and a referee who do not reside in the author's country.
2. On receipt of a paper the editor will send it to *at least* one referee. The referee's report will indicate that the paper should be accepted or accepted after alterations, or that it should be rejected.
3. If rejection is advised, the paper is sent to another editor in another country and he will also send it to a referee but not with the report of the first referee. In rare cases where the two referees are not of the same opinion, the opinion of a third referee is sought.