



The year 1989 marks the centenary of the birth of Sir John Hammond on 23 February 1889. The issues of *Animal Production* this year commemorate that event and this issue contains the first of three invited papers germane to areas in which he worked. Hammond's greatness derives from the lasting stimulus he provided for the development of animal science through his own imaginative contributions particularly in fields of reproductive physiology and animal growth, the fostering of innovative thinking and experimentation through his many students across the world, and his dedication to the concept of the usefulness of science to practice. He helped to found the British Society of Animal Production in 1944 and was its first President. Around the time of Hammond's retirement the Society honoured him with a special issue of this journal (1962 Volume 4 part 1), which gave a brief history of the man and of his many writings. The Society now commends his example to a new generation of scientists and acclaims his memory.