

JOURNAL OF **DAIRY**  
**RESEARCH**

*Volume 45 Number 2 June 1978*

JDRSAN 45 (No. 2) 149-318 (1978) 0022-0299

**CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS**

## THE JOURNAL OF DAIRY RESEARCH

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The Journal was established in 1929 as a medium for the publication of the results of original research in dairy science and cognate subjects. It is published by the Cambridge University Press.

The subscription to volume 45, 1978, of the *Journal* is £29.00 net (U.S.A. and Canada US \$65.00) for a volume of three parts. Single copies may be purchased at £11.00 net (U.S.A. and Canada US \$25.00) each, plus postage. Subscriptions may be sent to any bookseller or to the Cambridge University Press, Bentley House, 200 Euston Road, London, NW1 2DB. Subscribers in the U.S.A. or Canada should send their orders to Cambridge University Press, 32 East 57th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022.

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## Professor J. W. G. Porter, M.A. Ph.D.

Professor J. W. G. Porter was appointed Director of the National Institute for Research in Dairying on 1 January 1978. Professor Porter, who is 58, was educated at Repton School and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he was an Exhibitioner. He gained 1st Class Honours in Natural Sciences Tripos, I and II, in 1941–2 and was awarded a Ph.D. degree in 1945, working under the supervision of Dr F. G. Mann, F.R.S., with a thesis entitled 'Some compounds of possible therapeutic interest'.

In 1946 Professor Porter joined the Nutrition Department at the N.I.R.D. and became Head of Department in 1965 on the retirement of Professor S. K. Kon.

In his early days at the Institute he was largely concerned with the requirements of rats and ruminants for the B-group vitamins and in particular with the contribution to this made by microbial synthesis. He demonstrated that in the rat there was a requirement for B vitamins in the diet whilst with the ruminant this group of vitamins could be synthesized by the rumen microbial flora and therefore ruminants were not dependent upon preformed B vitamins in their diet. This led to studies on the synthesis of vitamin B<sub>12</sub> in the rumen and in the course of this work a variety of compounds having vitamin B<sub>12</sub> activity for micro-organisms but not for higher animals were identified.

During the 1950s Professor Porter was involved in attempts to elucidate the process whereby incorporation of small amounts of antibiotics in the diet of pigs and poultry caused a stimulation of growth. Later he initiated work on carbohydrate digestion in the calf which showed that the young calf differs from many other young animals in that it can utilize only lactose and glucose. He also carried out studies on the relationship between digestibility and the nutritive value of proteins using rats as the experimental animal.

Professor Porter has given active support to the Nutrition Society, of which he is a member of Council, Programme Committee and Editorial Board. He is a member of the Group of European Nutritionalists and is on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture*. He has been a member of several committees concerning nutritional aspects and is currently a member of the ARC Working Party on Nutrient Requirements of Ruminants and the MAFF/ADAS Evaluation of Protein Quality Working Party. He is also chairman of the ARC Protein Evaluation Group.

Neonatal nutrition has been of particular interest to Professor Porter and he is a member of the D.H.S.S. committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy Working Party on The Composition of Foods for Infants and Young Children.

Leisure activities include gardening and playing squash. Professor Porter is married with a son and daughter.

G. C. CHEESEMAN