OBITUARY

POUL ARNE HANSEN

1902-1972

Poul Arne Hansen, Professor of Microbiology at the University of Maryland, died suddenly on 2 June 1972 of a massive stroke while at home in Washington, D.C.

Arne, as his friends called him, was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 19 August 1902. He received his M.S. degree from the Royal Technical College, Copenhagen, in 1926, where he had been a student of and assistant to the distinguished Danish microbiologist, S. Orla-Jensen. During this time, he conducted advanced research on the lactic-acid bacteria. After spending a year (1927-28) in Dublin as a bacteriologist in the Department of Agriculture of Eire, Arne came to the United States, where he took a position as an assistant in research at the N.Y. State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, N.Y. Here he met Lubow Margolena, whom he subsequently married. He received his Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1934, whereupon he returned to Copenhagen as an assistant professor of applied biochemistry at the Royal Technical College (1934-40). Upon the German invasion of Denmark in 1940, Arne and his wife, Lubow, returned, as refugees, to the United States. From 1940 to 1941, he worked in the laboratory of L. A. Rogers, Bureau of Dairy Industry, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., where he became assistant curator of the American Type Culture Collection, then housed at the Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. In 1942 he became an associate professor in the Department of Bacteriology at the University of Maryland. In 1944 he was employed by the U.S. Department of the Interior in the Fish and Wildlife Service, and then in 1947 he took a position as associate professor in the Department of Bacteriology at the Iowa State University. In 1948 he returned to the University of Maryland, where he was a professor of Microbiology until the time of his death. Arne was due to retire in July of this year, and he had already been given a retirement party by his students and colleagues.

Arne was an active member of the following scientific societies and organizations: American Academy of Microbiology, American Society for Microbiology, Biophysics Society, British Society for Immunology, Virginia Academy of Sciences, Washington Academy of Sciences, and Sigma Chi. He was also a member of the International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology (ICSB); Secretary of the ICSB Subcommittee on *Lactobacillus* and Related Organisms; Chairman of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Subcommittee on *Lactobacillae* and *Propionibacteriaceae*; a member of the ASM Committee on Taxonomy; and a member of the ASM Subcommittee on Nomenclature of Bacteria. Arne's interest in taxonomic problems ran very deep.

P. A. Hansen made many significant contributions to the taxonomy of the lactic-acid bacteria. He and his students also made important contributions to microbial physiology and genetics and to the development of fluorescent-dye techniques in immunology. Arne was also an outstanding teacher, and one of his great assets was his ability to transmit his enthusiasm to his students.

P. A. Hansen was an affable person. He enjoyed music, often following a performance with a written score, art, history, and travel. He also appreciated good food, wine, and conversation. His subtle, perhaps typically Danish, light-heartedness was enjoyed by his friends and colleagues.

Systematic bacteriology has lost one of its most colorful personalities, who will long be remembered by his friends, students, and colleagues.

Morrison Rogosa