

Ivor Dembrey, 1904–1981

The former Additional Public Analyst for the City of Bristol and the County of Gloucestershire, Ivor Dembrey, B.Sc., M.Chem.A., C.Chem., F.R.S.C., died on 9 April 1981 in his 77th year.

A native of Bristol, he was educated at the Merchant Venturers School and gained his degree in Chemistry at the University of Bristol. At the same time, he became an Associate of the then Institute of Chemistry, now the Royal Society of Chemistry. His early professional career took him into industry with Capper Pass in Bedminster and later into a short research project at Long Ashton Research Station.

His real career commenced in 1934 when he was appointed as an Assistant Analyst to the late F. E. Needs, Public Analyst for Bristol from 1934 to 1946. During these early years he helped to develop the new laboratories at Canynge Hall at Clifton Down, but the Second World War prevented him from qualifying to be a Public Analyst in his own right until 1946. During the war years, he, like many other Air Raid Wardens, did much to defend the City of Bristol. In the late war years, he assisted in Gas Identification Training, and it was not surprising that he gave more voluntary service as a Scientific Intelligence Officer within Civil Defence during the late Forties and Fifties.

When the late Ernest Whittle was appointed Public Analyst in 1946, Ivor Dembrey was appointed his deputy, later becoming Additional Public Analyst when the laboratory was asked to include Gloucestershire, a post which he held until his retirement in 1969.

Since then, he took a very keen interest in the future of the laboratory, its emergence as the County of Avon Scientific Services Department and its recent move to Redcross Street in Bristol.

He was renowned for his knowledge and expertise as a professional scientist and despite his apparently gruff exterior, Ivor Dembrey was a very warm-hearted man, always ready to encourage his staff in the pursuit of analytical chemistry and to champion the underdog.

"I.D." as he was affectionately known, will be sadly missed by his family, his friends and his former colleagues.

D. J. TAYLOR