

Richard William Sutton

Richard William Sutton died on 15 March, 1982, aged 82. He had been a widower for 8 years and had no family. A sister and two brothers are bereaved.

After a short period in the Navy during the 1914-18 war, Sutton graduated from Manchester and went to work with Trotman in Nottingham—for a time without pay! He then worked for Tickle in Exeter and then moved to Leeds as deputy City Analyst to Manley. In 1933 he was appointed County Analyst for Derbyshire and Borough Analyst for Derby. He retired in 1964. For many years before his retirement, and for a short time afterwards, Sutton served on the Food Standards Committee. He was awarded the O.B.E. in 1956.

Sutton was a fine Analyst, with a wide knowledge of the literature on his subject and an elegant technique in the laboratory. He took over an almost moribund Derbyshire laboratory and revived it by introducing new staff, new apparatus and a new approach. During this time he supervised a wide range of investigational work. He had published papers in his earlier days, but of the Derbyshire work only that on lard, benzoic acid, and freezing point of milk was published. Perhaps this was the perfectionist not being satisfied that his work had been properly completed. However, extensive work was done on meat products, gelatine, cider and sherry, trace metals—including the analytical work on Swayback in lambs, colouring matter in foods and, just prior to retirement, a vast amount of work on pesticides in food.

Sutton was an austere man who suffered fools hardly at all, but he could be an amusing colleague when he relaxed. He was probably seen at his best when his friends or his colleagues were in trouble—then he came out as a kind, helpful and practical man who would take endless pains to help.

In his early days Sutton was a fine sportsman. A County tennis player, a County hockey player, a more than useful cricketer. He later became a 4 handicap golfer. However, his main interest was the countryside. He spent many hours shooting with his friend from University days, the late Graham Sherratt.

Sutton, although one of the founder members of the APA, never took much part in its affairs. He was active in the old SPA and served on the Council. He, along with the late Harold Monk, was an active negotiator for the proper status and remuneration of Analysts. We could have used two such formidable negotiators more recently.

The Association was represented at the funeral by the Secretary, J. B. Aldred, Past President J. Markland, and M. W. Whitworth of the Derbyshire laboratory.

J. MARKLAND