Alfred Klopstock
Professor Klopstock died at Tel-Aviv, Israel, on April 4th, 1968. He enjoyed an international reputation and will long be remembered for his pioneer work on lipid-specific and chemospecific antigens and on the serology of syphilis.

His chief publications are Methoden der Hämolys-Forschung (jointly with Sachs in 1928), Methoden zur Sero-Diagnose der Syphilis [1938], many papers on the Immune Adhesion Hemagglutination Test, the Basophil and Mast-Cell Degranulation Test, Antibodies Reacting with Steroid Haptens, the Immuno-electrophoretic Analysis of Seminal Plasma, and the Immunological Aggressiveness of Lymphocytes to the Embryo.

Klopstock was born in Berlin on February 5th, 1896. Between 1922 and 1933, he worked at Heidelberg University, first at the Institute of Experimental Cancer Research with Hans Sachs and then in Serology and Immunology. In 1923, he acted as Consultant to the League of Nations Conference on Sero-Diagnosis of Syphilis at Copenhagen, and in 1928 he directed the Serological Laboratory of the German-Russian Syphilis Expedition to the Burjat Mongolian Republic. He took part in the Convegno Volta in Rome in 1933, and went on from Italy to Tel-Aviv where he built up a Medical Diagnostic Laboratory with the help of his first wife, the late Dr. Elisabeth Klopstock. He continued research on Epidemiology and Public Health, and was appointed Director of the Department of Microbiology of the University of Tel-Aviv in 1956, serving as Rector of the University for 5 years.

Klopstock had a clear vision of the problems of Immunology and their application to Medicine. His sceptical attitude towards the supposed beneficial effects of allergic inflammation resulted in him carrying out a memorable series of experiments illustrating the dissociation of the hypersensitive tissue response from immunity. Numerous pupils owe him a debt of gratitude for his warm-hearted support in personal problems. He acted as scientific educator and link with many international bodies in the biological sciences. He was a cultured and erudite man as well as a fascinating lecturer. To honour his memory, the Chair which he held with so much distinction in the University of Tel-Aviv has been named after him. W. Pagel, London

Sir Henry H. Dale, O.M., G.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.
Sir Henry Dale, one of the greatest figures in the British biological sciences, died in Cambridge, England, on July 23, 1968 at the age of 93. He had been the first director of the National Institute for Medical Research in Great Britain and a past president of the Royal Society, and had achieved the distinction of winning, with Otto Loewi, a Nobel Prize in 1936. He was an Honorary Member of the Collegium Internationale Allergologicum.

From the Leys School, Cambridge, Dale went in 1894 to Trinity College, Cambridge, where after graduating he spent two years doing research work in the Physiological Laboratory under J. N. Langley. Later, he took his clinical course at St. Bartholomew’s Hospital. Then he had a short spell with Starling at University College where he met and developed his friendship with Loewi.
During this period, he went for a few months to Frankfurt to study immunology under Paul Ehrlich. Dale was later chosen as Director of the Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories and during the next 10 years he gathered around him a brilliant team of workers and established his own qualities as investigator and administrator.

Dale made important contributions in many fields. With Barger and others, he showed that, in addition to the alkaloid ergotoxine, preparations of ergot contained the amines tyramine and histamine. He also discovered the oxytocic effect of posterior pituitary extract.

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His studies on histamine led to the discovery of the action of that substance on the capillaries, and this knowledge formed the basis of much of the modern conception of surgical shock and of anaphylaxis and allergy. Somewhat later, he began his studies on the action of acetyl-choline, another of the substances found in ergot. With various workers, he showed that acetylcholine, like histamine, was a normal constituent of the body of mammals. This work did not reach its full fruition until many years later, when acetylcholine was finally identified as the chemical agent released by parasympathetic nerve endings and by the ending of preganglionic fibres in automatic ganglia. Later still, he showed it was the agent liberated at the endings of voluntary motor nerves. Dale and Loewi in their complementary work established the role of acetylcholine and developed the theory of neurohumoral transmission. The terms cholinergic and adrenergic were introduced by Dale in 1934.

Dale retired from the Directorship of the National Institute in 1942 but retirement tended even to increase his activities, particularly as regards work for the Wellcome Trust. He never wrote a book but selections from his scientific publications and addresses were published under the titles of ‘Adventures in Physiology, with Excursions into Autopharmaco-logy’ and ‘An Autumn Gleaning’.

In appearance, Dale was a commanding figure and his clearness of argument was a joy to hear. He had a rich sense of humour and enjoyed dining out in good company. At scientific meetings, he had the happy and remarkable ability of always picking out the most significant points being discussed. Characteristically, he worked to the end. Though his physical powers were diminished, he retained his wonderful memory and mental powers unimpaired. For many years, I have valued the privilege of his friendship and wise counsel and judgement in many matters. Only a few months before his death, I received a long letter from him at his Cambridge Nursing Home, acknowledging the receipt of some of my recent publications about anaphylaxis and allergic conditions in different species. After stating that he had read them with great interest, he went on to make a few comments, mostly to show how he accidentally made the adventure into research on anaphylactic phenomena: the identification of histamine in ergot, followed by the similarity between the actions of histamine and those of anaphylactic shock, and the response of the isolated uterus of a sensitized virgin guinea pig to the specific antigen. As is well known from his publications, Dale’s experiments on the mechanism of anaphylaxis were almost entirely carried out on the reactions special to the guinea pig, and he always admitted that he was unfortunately unable from his personal experience to discuss the nature of the symptoms called anaphylactic in species such as the rat and mouse.

Dale’s outstanding achievements and his far-reaching influence on medical research met national and international recognition. Physiologists and pharmacologists in every part of the world have been, and still are, influenced by his writings. His name will always remain associated with the work he did on ergot, sympathomimetic amines, anaphylaxis, histamine, acetylcholine, and the
chemical transmission of nerve effects. Man also owes him a great debt for his work on the
standardisation of drugs such as insulin.
G. B. West, Carshalton