

Sutherland Simpson

Professor of Physiology

February 3, 1863 — March 2, 1926

In the death of Sutherland Simpson, Cornell University has lost one of its ablest teachers and most tireless research workers. Born on Flotta, one of the Orkney Islands, February 3, 1863, he spent his early years on his father's farm and on the sea. In 1884, at the age of twenty-one, he went to Edinburgh to work in the physiological laboratory under Professor Rutherford. During the fifteen years spent in this post he found time to complete his education, securing the degree of B.Sc. in 1894 and the degree of M. B. Ch. B. in 1899. In that year Sir. Edward Sharpey-Schaefer became Professor of Physiology at Edinburgh and under his stimulating leadership Sutherland Simpson entered upon his life work as a teacher and investigator in Physiology. He received the degree of Doctor of Medicine (Gold Medal) in 1901, and D.Sc. in 1903. Nine busy years passed in Edinburgh, years filled with conscientious teaching and productive research, which, in 1908, brought him the call to Cornell University as Professor of Physiology. This position he held until his death, devoting himself to the development of his subject, organizing, and equipping his department. Throughout these years he has given himself tirelessly to teaching, administration and research, acquitting himself with honor in each of these fields. In Cornell his research activity resulted in the production of fifty-six scientific studies of which the majority dealt with the glands of internal secretion. This work was greatly facilitated during the later years by the development of the Physiology Field-Station. Untiring devotion to research, although enthusiastically prosecuted, did not in any way interfere with his teaching duties. As a lecturer he was clear and forceful; but it was in the personal contacts of laboratory and demonstration that he particularly imparted much of his inspiration and enthusiasm.

Dr. Simpson was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and a member of the American and British Medical Associations, the American and British Associations for the Advancement of Science, the American and British Physiological Societies, and other special scientific bodies,

Possessing a genial personality, a sympathetic nature, a keen intellect, great energy, and high ideals of scientific work, he was as big of mind and heart as of body and his presence radiated good feeling and friendliness wherever he went. These qualities endeared him to his colleagues and students. His loss is keenly felt by all who knew him.

Source: Fac. Rec. p. 1459 Adopted by The Trustees and Faculty of Cornell University May, Nineteen Hundred And Twenty-Six