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Ref: MS 253

Title: **Eggleston Notebooks**

Scope: *A set of notebooks recording biochemical research carried out by Leonard Victor Eggleston (1920-1974), research assistant to Hans Adolf Krebs, together with a thesis.*

Dates: 1941-1974

Level: Fonds

Extent: 5 boxes (21 items)

Name of creator: Leonard Victor Eggleston

Administrative / biographical history:

The set of 20 notebooks and one BSc thesis records biochemical research carried out by Len Eggleston, research assistant to the Nobel Laureate Professor Sir Hans Krebs, between the years 1941-1974 (for information on Krebs see the entry for the Krebs Papers). They commence during the Second World War, when Krebs was engaged as part of the war effort in work on nutrition at Sheffield University's Sorby Research Institute (see entry under Sorby Research Institute Collection), and continue in the post-war period at the Universities of Sheffield and Oxford. A few letters relating to the work of the Sorby Research Institute found in the notebooks are noted in the itemised list.

Another early notebook of Eggleston, dated from July 25 1936, forms part of the Krebs Papers (ref. D22 (Notebook 13)).

Leonard Victor Eggleston (1920-1974), described by Krebs as "a reliable, a resourceful and long-standing collaborator", was born in Sheffield and was educated at Marlcliffe Intermediate School. Initially employed as a laboratory assistant in the Department of Physics at Sheffield University, he moved in January 1936 at the age of 16 to join Krebs in the Department of Pharmacology as Krebs' first technician, and thenceforth remained with Krebs' research team until his death in January 1974. Until the end of the war he was Krebs' only "semi-permanent (but eventually permanent) technical assistant". Eggleston was thus active in the Department during the work on the Citric Acid Cycle (the Krebs Cycle) for which Krebs later received a Nobel Prize, and the war-time nutritional work of the Sorby Research Institute. His aptitude for biochemical research is evidenced by the fact that from modest beginnings many research papers came to be published under Eggleston's name, in collaboration with Krebs or other members of the team and, later, also by Eggleston as sole author.

In 1945 the Medical Research Council set up a Unit for Research in Cell Metabolism at Sheffield with Krebs as its Head. Following the award to Krebs in 1953, for his pre-war work on the Citric Acid Cycle, of a Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine, he was offered and accepted the Whitley Chair of Biochemistry at Oxford University. The move to Oxford entailed the relocation of the MRC Unit to the Metabolic Research Laboratory in the Radcliffe Infirmary, and most of Krebs Sheffield research team, including Eggleston, elected to move with him, a situation described by Krebs as "a severe test of the solidarity of the team". At

Oxford, although the work of Krebs' Department covered wider aspects of biochemical research, the MRC team of which Eggleston was a member "turned its attention from metabolic pathways to regulatory mechanisms of metabolism", in Krebs' words. In 1958 Eggleston was awarded a BSc degree - his St. Catherine's Society thesis is in this collection.

Although Krebs was obliged to retire from University employment in September 1967 and the MRC Metabolic Research Unit was due to be wound up, the Medical Research Council was prepared to continue its financial support for Krebs' work and to support a smaller research team. Krebs was thus able to move to accommodation offered by the Department of Clinical Medicine with four of his researchers, including Eggleston, and ancillary staff. The work undertaken from this point was deliberately designed to be of relevance to clinical work. Eggleston remained with the team until his death in January 1974.

The Krebs Papers at Sheffield include a résumé by Eggleston of his work and publications up to 1948, whilst the BSc thesis in this collection lists his publications from 1938-1958. He is also mentioned in Krebs' memoir *Reminiscences and reflections, in collaboration with Anne Martin*, Clarendon Press 1981, and the two-volume biography (only up to the year 1937) by Frederic Lawrence Holmes *Hans Krebs*, Oxford University Press, 1991-93.

The University of Sheffield Library is grateful to Drs Tilli Tansey and Pamela Lear of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine for arranging for this collection to come to Sheffield.

Related collections: Krebs Papers; Sorby Research Institute Collection

Source: Donated by the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 2000

System of arrangement: Chronologically within category

Subjects: Biochemists - Great Britain

Names: Eggleston, Leonard Victor (1920-1974); Krebs, Sir Hans Adolf (1900-1981); Medical Research Council - Unit for Research in Cell Metabolism; University of Oxford - Department of Biochemistry; University of Sheffield - Department of Biochemistry; University of Sheffield - Sorby Research Institute

Conditions of access: Academic researchers by appointment

Restrictions: None

Copyright: According to document

Finding aids: Listed

Eggleston Notebooks

Itemised list

By date of commencement (where given). All except items 3, 4 and 21 bear Eggleston's signature.

Summary books

253/1

1965 Nov 'Summaries of enzyme activities'
1965 - 1968. Index at front, pp. 1-40; inc. pasted-in and loose leaves

253/2

[c.1973]: 'Inhibitors'
Undated. Some pp. at front cut out

Recipe books

253/3

1962 'Enzyme Assays and Determinations using enzymes, 1962...'
1962-1972. Pp. 1-74, with index at back; inc. pasted-in and loose leaves. Initials 'LVE' on front cover

253/4

[c. 1950] 'Methods of Determination' [title from Index at back]
c1950-1972. Arranged by topic; inc. loose leaves. Ring-binder, inc. set of unused spare pages

Book of annotated references

253/5

1952 Oct Untitled
1952-1968. Inc. loose leaves.
With addresses at Sheffield and Oxford
Loose leaves inc. letter from Dr Paul. H. Kopper, Washburn University of Topeka, 25 Feb 1969 (253/5/1)

Experimental log books

With booksellers' ref. nos. in front of some, shown as e.g. (B345)

253/6

1941 Sep 21 Analyses of toothpastes and powders, wheatmeal, calcium in several humans' excreta (B345)

With list of 6 volunteer human subjects. Includes letters and other loose material

This log book records nutritional experiments undertaken by the Sorby Research Institute

Letters re National Wheatmeal analyses:

- 253/6/1 Research Association of British Flour Millers, St. Albans, to Krebs, 17 May 1941
- 253/6/2 Coxes Lock Milling Co. Ltd, Weybridge, to Krebs, 24 Jly 1941
- 253/6/3 (copy letter, 2 copies) Research Association of British Flour Millers, St. Albans, to Coxes Lock Milling Co. Ltd, Weybridge, 13 Dec 1941
- 253/6/4 (copy letter) unsigned, to Dr R.A. McCance, Department of Medicine, Cambridge, 31 Jly 1941
- 253/6/5 (copy letter) unsigned, to Dr Moran, Millers Research Association, Watford, 31 Jly 1941
- 253/6/6 (copy letter) unsigned, to Coxes Lock Milling Co. Ltd, Weybridge, 31 Jly 1941
- 253/6/7 postcard, with view of Coxes Lock Milling Co. Ltd, Weybridge:
'S.H.' to Krebs, postmarked 20 Jan 1942

253/7

1941 Nov [Book] '(1)'. 'Formation of indole from B.Coli', etc. (B345 1/2)
1941-1942. 'Bought 24 Dec 1941 by RH'. Pp. 1-173; inc. loose leaves.

253/8

1942 Apr 11 [Book] '(2)'. 'Effect of aconitase on Trichloromethylparaconic acid', etc.
1942-1943. Pp. 1-296; iInc. loose leaves

253/9

1943 May 26 'Book 3'. Metabolic enzyme analyses (e.g. from pigeon breast).
1943-1945. Pp. 1-296; inc. loose leaves

253/10

1945 Jly 20 'Book 4'. (B306 3/4 B)
1945-1948. Pp. 1-343, pages cut out at front; inc. 1 loose
leaf

253/11

1948 Nov 23 'Book 5'. ATP experiments, inc. in brain and sarcoma, carbon and salt
movements, 'extraction of glycolytic system'. (B708)
1948-1951. Pp. 1-378; inc. loose leaves

253/12

1951 Nov 24 'Book 6'. ADP / ATP experiments. (444C)
1951-1954. Pp. 1-364; inc. pasted -in and loose leaves.

253/13

1954 Jly 16 'Book 7'. Organ enzyme assays. (444)
1954-1958. Pp. 1-378; inc. 1 pasted-in leaf
With addresses at Sheffield, and Oxford '(from Oct. 1. 54)'

253/14

1958 Mar 11 'Book VIII'. (as above). (H/2449)
1958-1964. Pp. 1-570; inc. pasted-in and loose leaves

253/15

1964 Dec 22 'Book IX'. (as above).
1964-1971. Pp. 1-440; inc. pasted-in and loose leaves
With addresses at University of Oxford and Radcliffe Infirmary

253/16

1971 Sep 6 'Book X'. Some human, inc. 'baby' tissue.
1971-1972. Pp. 1-81; inc. loose leaves, inc. graphs

253/17

1972 Jly 21 'Book XI'. (as above; much NADPH)
1972-1973. 'Rough Index' at back. Pp. 1-154; inc. loose
leaves

253/18

1973 Jan 23 'Book XII'. (as above)
1973. Pp. 1-158.

253/19

1973 Jun 18 'Book XIII'. ' "Co-factor" preparations'
1973. Index at back. Pp. 1-158.

253/20

1973 Nov 22 'Book XIV'. (as above)
1973-1974 (Jan). Pp. 1-38; inc. loose leaves

Thesis

253/21

1958 'Studies on L-Amino Acid Decarboxylases'...by Leonard Victor
Eggleston
(BSc. thesis, Oxford (St. Catherine's Society)
Includes separate list of author's publications 1938-1958