

advisers and to farmers—be they from Glenmoragie, Scotland, Wales or even Australia!

With his unrivalled eminence in the field of animal breeding and his very significant contribution to New Zealand animal production, it is with the greatest

pleasure that Professor Alexander Lindsay Rae is nominated for honorary life membership of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production.

Clare Callow and Neil Clarke

THE McMEEKAN MEMORIAL AWARD 1984

A. M. BRYANT M.Agr.Sci.(Massey), Ph.D.(Massey)

The paternal grandfather of this year's McMeekan Memorial Award winner was a notable teacher, botanist and climber—so much so that the mountain range overlooking Nelson bears his name. The winner himself was the youngest of a family of 6—'the spoilt little bugger of the family', according to an older member. The older members were brought up during the depression years on a farm which supplied milk to relief workers in a nearby labour camp and at no stage could their circumstances be described as affluent. This background probably helps explain some of the qualities of Arnold Max Bryant, the recipient of the 1984 McMeekan Memorial Award.

Arnold went to school at the small town of Brightwater and then to Nelson College where rugby and pig shooting provided outlets for his energies. At the end of his school career he joined the Public Service and entered Lincoln College as a Rural Field Cadet in 1955. He and 3 colleagues became the first Rural Field Cadets to undertake the degree course. After Lincoln, he spent a year working on farms and in 1956 came to Massey College and Palmerston North which was to be his home for almost the next 12 years.

Arnold's career in the Manawatu was notable for many things and these included his rugby, his leadership and his scholarship. He played 42 rugby games for Manawatu between 1958 and 1963, the last year as captain. He was a versatile forward and at the time of his retirement had scored 120 points for Manawatu, mainly from goal kicking.

Arnold Bryant's maturity and leadership qualities were now clearly apparent, so it is not surprising that he was widely known as 'Chief', and also that he became President of Massey's Student Association.

Arnold's maturity was also apparent in his study and in the results achieved. He was a top scholar and was awarded 5 prizes and scholarships at Massey in the process of completing the B. Agr. Sci. degree in 1960 and the M. Agr. Sci. in 1961.

His first experience of work with the Ministry of

Agriculture was at the Wallaceville Animal Research Centre in 1962. In his first job he became a pawn in the power struggle for the Director-Generalship of Agriculture. Two of the contenders in that bitter contest were Dr Ira Cunningham, then Assistant Director General and former Superintendent of Wallaceville, and Dr C. P. McMeekan, Superintendent of Ruakura. Ira Cunningham insisted that the newly graduated Bryant go to Wallaceville and not to Ruakura, so this he did for about 9 months. However Dr L. R. Wallace brought sanity into the situation and arranged that Arnold work on rumen metabolism with Dr Alan Johns at the Plant Chemistry Division of D.S.I.R. at Palmerston North. It was there that he undertook his Ph.D. under the supervision of Professor Don Titchen of Massey's veterinary faculty and Campbell Reid of D.S.I.R.

Arnold came to Ruakura in 1967 and fortunately his interests were substantially diverted from inside the cow to measuring what happened outside. Dr J. B. Hutton was going through a similar transition about that time and together they formed a fruitful partnership measuring the nutritive value of a range of fodders, the reponse of dairy cows to different feeding levels and systems of management. In the process they accumulated much information on the feed requirements of dairy cows under temperate pasture farming conditions.

Dr Bryant spent almost 2 years at Armidale in 1972-73 with Dr Ron Long, using radioisotopes in rumen digestion studies. He assumed control of the dairy nutrition work at Ruakura in 1976 and became leader of the Dairy Science Section in 1980. This section has 2 research farms, (Nos. 2 and 5 Dairies) at Ruakura, a total of 172 ha carrying 550 head of cattle and staffed by 6 scientists, 30 technicians and 25 others. As well as the studies in dairy cattle nutrition and production, the section has been responsible for research in protein extraction from grass.

Dr Bryant's work has covered many fields and he