



David Riess.

ALBERT CHERBURY DAVID RIVETT

*Died 1 April 1961*

*Foundation Fellow 1954; Council 1954-55; Vice-President 1954-55*

Born 4 December 1885, at Port Esperance, Tasmania. Educated at Wesley College, Melbourne; Queen's College, University of Melbourne; Lincoln College, Oxford University, and the Nobel Institute, Stockholm. Victorian Rhodes Scholar 1907. Appointed Lecturer in Chemistry, University of Melbourne 1911, Associate Professor 1921 and Professor of Chemistry 1924-27. Chief Executive Officer and Deputy Chairman Council of Scientific and Industrial Research 1927-45, Chairman 1945-49; Chairman, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization Advisory Council 1950. Elected F.R.S. 1941, created K.C.M.G. 1935. Doctor of Science *honoris causa*, University of Oxford 1946, University of Manchester 1949; Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*, Australian National University 1957. Honorary Member Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy 1943, Honorary Fellow Lincoln College, Oxford, 1946. President Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science 1937-39. General President Royal Australian Chemical Institute 1940 and 1949. President Society of Chemical Industry, London, 1949.

Rivett's scientific work was in the field of classical physical chemistry; he was an inspiring teacher and his monograph "The Phase Rule", first published in 1921, is still used as a textbook in many universities. It was in his capacity as Chief Executive Officer of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research that he found the scope and challenge on which to exercise his many talents. His policies and his ability to ensure their implementation laid a foundation on which the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization are still supported. To Rivett can undoubtedly be attributed the unique success as a scientific organization that the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organization still enjoys; Australia should be everlastingly grateful for the services of this great, kindly and modest gentleman.