

in 1965. It is available in a paperback edition at a very reasonable price from the Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, Westminster, S.W. 1, England. This little volume contains numerous illustrative photographs, painstakingly taken over a period of several years, showing how to prune a tree at planting, at the end of its second year, third year and fourth year, etc. It deals with summer pruning, training to different forms, thinning, and other cultural practices important to the home gardener, as well as giving information on English varieties and fertility rules. It is the best of its kind in the English language, and should serve the American grower well until such time as a similar book covering American varieties and conditions comes along.

The above, of course, is but a selection. Among American writers on

fruit, one could commence in 1817 with Coxe, and include Barry, Thomas, Cole, Manning, Warder, Munson (grapes), as well as the many excellent bulletins of the state experiment agricultural stations and the United States Department of Agriculture.

I have made no attempt to list also the superb and excellent works in languages other than English, although, if it can be found, one very helpful volume would be Carl Mathieu's *Nomenclator Pomologicus* published in 1889. With typical German thoroughness, Mathieu examined the literature of all languages and listed all the names and synonyms that he found for all the various types of fruit. Thus, Mathieu did, on a universal basis, what Ragan did on the basis of American writings alone. The result is an astounding list of over 50,000 names of fruit varieties.

Reid M. Brooks and George L. Slate Receive Wilder Medals

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The American Pomological Society has the distinction of awarding annually the Wilder Medal in recognition of outstanding contributions to horticulture in the broad area of pomology. This is one of the oldest and most coveted medals in the field of horticulture, and was established in 1873 by the A.P.S. in honor of Marshall P. Wilder, the illustrious founder and first president of the organization. In evaluating nominees for this award, special consideration is given to work relating to the organization and introduction of meritorious new varieties of fruit. Significant contributions to the science and practice of pomology other than fruit breeding are also considered.

In awarding Wilder Medals this year we are honoring two men, Dr. Reid M. Brooks, and Professor George L. Slate, who have established outstanding records as scholars, scientists

and educators.

Discussing the accomplishments of Dr. Brooks and Prof. Slate is in reality the presentation of the end product of the type of effort professors try to promote in their students. How can we define success in terms which will encourage this type of dedicated effort? If life is to have meaning and purpose, I believe we must take two positive actions to fulfill our destiny. Each of us must develop our individual abilities to the greatest possible degree, and then use this talent in service for others. It is just as simple as that. Can you think of a better recipe for success, particularly if we will develop our talent and render our service with enthusiasm?

These men have accepted the challenge of developing their talent and rendering service. They have done this in the face of considerable competition, and the many distractions

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of modern life. They are examples of truly superior performance. Those who would be successful must accept the fact that such evidence of accomplishment is not attained easily. As in sports, world records are made only under the intense pressure from other capable athletes. The same is true in all areas of human endeavor such as agriculture, business, education, industry and research.

These scientists and scholars who we are honoring with Wilder Medals have certainly followed the course I have cited here. Dr. Reid M. Brooks was born in De Kalb, Illinois in February 1908. His higher education was received at Northern Illinois State Teachers College, the University of Chicago, and the University of California.

Brooks' professional career was devoted largely to research associated with breeding, morphology, and climatic effects relating to deciduous fruits, at the University of California at Davis. His work included studies of almond and apricot fruit growth. He was concerned with climatic effects on the productivity of apricot, prune, and pear. For many years he was active in sweet cherry breeding, and five new varieties were named and released as a result of his work, namely Mona, Larian, Jubilee, Berryessa and Bada.

One of Brooks' major contributions was the preparation of the **Register of New Fruit and Nut Varieties** in collaboration with H. P. Olmo. Without the leadership of Brooks, this project might have been discontinued many years ago. He was also an active member of the American Pomological Society and the American Society for Horticultural Science. He rendered effective service on several important committees of each of these organizations, including chairmanship of the A.P.S. Committee for Variety Appraisal and Nomenclature. We regret that

the untimely death of Dr. Brooks in January 1966 makes it necessary for this to be a posthumous award.

Professor George L. Slate is another scientist with an enviable record of dedicated service. He was born in Bernardston, Massachusetts in June 1899. He received his B.S. degree from the Massachusetts Agricultural College, now the University of Massachusetts, and his M.S. degree from Harvard University. He is a member of several honorary and horticultural organizations including Sigma Xi, American Pomological Society, American Society for Horticultural Science, Northern Nut Growers, and the North American Lily Society, and is the current A.P.S. Chairman of the Committee for Variety Arbitration. His entire professional career has been spent at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station.

The outstanding contributions of Professor Slate are related chiefly to small fruits and their improvement by breeding. He was one of the co-authors of the **Small Fruits of New York**. Under his guidance a very impressive number of new small fruit varieties have been introduced, including 12 strawberries, 6 red raspberries, 2 black raspberries, 3 purple raspberries, and 3 blackberries. During recent years he has been particularly active in breeding fall-fruiting strawberries and red raspberries, which will undoubtedly result in several superior new introductions.

In addition to his breeding work, Prof. Slate has been active as a writer of popular articles relating to small fruits, nuts and lillies. He is a recognized national authority on lillies and their culture.

Reid Brooks and George Slate are particularly deserving recipients of the Wilder Medal. It is a distinct privilege for the American Pomological Society to be able to recognize the accomplishments of such dedicated scientists.