

ELECTION OF LIFE MEMBER

C.S.M. HOPKIRK, O.B.E., E.D., D.V.Sc., (MELB.) M.R.C.V.S.,
F.A.N.Z.A.A.S.



DR HOPKIRK has given an extraordinarily long service to veterinary science and animal production. He joined the Wallaceville Animal Diagnostic and Research Laboratory in 1912 as a laboratory assistant, after spending three years as a cadet in the laboratory of the Biology Department of Victoria University College. After war service in Palestine, he entered the Melbourne Veterinary School, graduating B.V.Sc. (first-class honours) in 1923 and shortly afterwards was appointed Officer in Charge of the Wallaceville laboratory, a post he was to fill for 21 years. During this period, he encouraged the growth of the original small staff to an active and well-known group of 85 before he retired. As well, he made notable contributions in research, particularly in the field of bovine mastitis. Dr Hopkirk was among the first to realize the importance of the new antiseptics and the role of hygiene in the control of mastitis on the dairy farm and initiated studies on the use of the quaternary ammonium compounds. The role of the milking-machine as a factor in mastitis also interested him and he was the first worker to publish evidence that the stability of the milking-machine may be a factor in irritating the udder. Realizing the deficiencies of the then current diagnostic methods

available in the mastitis field, Dr Hopkirk developed his gravity cream layer leucocyte assessment technique. For this work, together with studies related to other animal diseases, he was awarded the degree of D.V.Sc. by Melbourne University.

After the Second World War, Dr Hopkirk resigned from Wallaceville and worked internationally as a Senior Veterinarian in U.N.R.R.A. He was concerned in the rebuilding of veterinary services, and the institution of new ones, improving animal husbandry methods and the establishment of disease control measures in several countries. Later he was leader of an FAO mission in Ethiopia. As well, he served in London as Veterinary Officer to the High Commissioner, where he built up the position into an active liaison with veterinary research groups in Europe and played an important role in recruiting veterinarians for service in New Zealand.

On his return to New Zealand, despite advancing years, Dr Hopkirk continued active work as consultant to Tasman Vaccine Laboratory. In 1959, he accepted a temporary lectureship at Lincoln College for two years. He now holds the position of Research Officer at Lincoln and is primarily concerned with the control of brucellosis and mastitis, with special reference to town milk herds.

As a veterinarian, Dr Hopkirk has played a significant role within the profession, and has held the presidency of the New Zealand Veterinary Association on three occasions; he was Honorary Secretary for 12 years, and a councillor. He is a Foundation Member of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production and was elected Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Agricultural Science in 1967. Among audiences of farmers in New Zealand, Dr Hopkirk is well known, and his practical papers on farmers' problems have made him widely respected.