OBITUARY

Sir John Kendrew

It is with great sadness that we note the death of Sir John Kendrew on 23 August 1997. He was one of the pioneers of X-ray protein crystallography and the first to solve the structure of a protein molecule by X-ray methods. He founded the Journal of Molecular Biology in 1959. The field arose from the union of two streams of research, one in genetics and the other on the structure of macromolecules, and John had the foresight to see that the burgeoning new subject would need a special journal. He called it the Journal of Molecular Biology and it was the first official recognition of a field of research which now pervades all of biology.

The Journal’s style was very much formed by John Kendrew; the insistence on detailed descriptions of experimental methods and on a high standard of writing was an important early feature of the Journal. From its very beginnings, the Journal was international, reflecting John’s abiding interest in international cooperation in science. John was an outstanding organizer as well as an excellent scientist, and he brought this talent to many areas. The Journal was only one of the many things he did for Molecular Biology during his distinguished career.

Sydney Brenner