

I arrived in Madison from New Zealand in May, 1953, on a Fulbright travel grant to work towards a Ph. D. with Dr M.L. Jackson. He had already arranged for me to obtain a Wisconsin Alumni Research Fellowship and pleaded my case successfully so that I could enter the Ph.D. program in soil science with my traditional British-style university degrees. Those were just the beginnings of the wonderful assistance and guidance he provided to me throughout my graduate program and a one-year post-doctoral program.

My laboratory bench adjoined his office and my desk was just outside his door, so I probably observed his habits more closely than most students. Dr Jackson was the ultimate productive professor; his work habits were regular, focussed and highly efficient; a great example to a young aspiring scientist. These were the days of the final preparation of the book “ Soil Chemical Analysis,” and I recall that all of us working with him were drawn into the project one way or another, providing us with invaluable experience for the future.

With his high intelligence and vision he built a coherent body of outstanding scientific achievement over a lifetime of effort while being sensitive to the personalities and satisfying the compulsions and needs of his numerous students and post-doctoral associates from many backgrounds and places. He and his gracious wife, Chrystie, took keen and kindly interest in us all.

We who were privileged to have worked with Dr M.L. Jackson benefited greatly. I, among many, am so sorry that he has gone. But his work, his memory and the examples he set will live long into the future

Leslie D. Swindale, PhD 1955