of the man, even if personal details are lacking. They include: forest inventory, 1924; rimu volume tables; a scheme of education for forest officers, 1925; proposals for organisation of fire protection, 1921; tentative suggestions for a long-term planting programme, 1926; some destructive distillation experiments in kauri milling waste, 1924; a proposal for an organisation for systematic research in silviculture, 1928; thinning in plantations, 1929; a proposal for the establishment of forest working circles, 1927.

The circumstances are not clear, but after 1928, when McIntosh Ellis's resignation took effect, Hansson's star declined, and he became officer-in-charge of the Waipoua Kauri Forest Experiment Station, from where he was finally dismissed by A. D. McGavock in 1933. We can but speculate, but there is some evidence of conflict between Hansson, an upright, firmly principled man, and his superiors, and indeed the Prime Minister, Gordon Coates himself, in whose territory Waipoua lay.

Hansson subsequently became Forestry Officer for the N.Z. Railways, and may have worked again for the Forest Service briefly in the early 1950s. The available records seem to indicate that the crusading, inquiring spirit of the 1930s was not regained, an impression confirmed by his involvement with this Institute; Hansson was a member of the first Council, elected in 1928, and became in October of that year the second President, replacing McIntosh Ellis, who departed for Australia. However, he resigned his membership shortly thereafter, a resignation probably not unconnected with the reasons which led to his leaving the Forest Service, and took no further part in the Institute's affairs.

While Hansson deserves and awaits a competent biographer, who may make a better appraisal of the man, the last word should be left to him. His 1929 presidential address to this body concludes thus:

"With greater understanding and appreciation of the forestry profession and its work, New Zealand should be one of the wonderlands of the world as regards forestry. Nowhere have the foresters better natural conditions to work under, and in very few places in the world can the forester live to see the results of his work such as is the case here in New Zealand.

"Let us, therefore, work in such a manner that when we are looking back on our life's work, we will be able to look with pride, and not with regret that the work has been thin air and promises.

"The Institute is yet young and we may also say that its members are young. We have to set our mark and build up the Institute by our own efforts.

"If we each, individually, set a high personal standard not for the other fellow, but for ourselves, then we may meet here again some day when our whiskers are grey and the day is fading, and say, 'We have done it, and it is well'."

J.S.H.

John Wilson Gilmour, 1923-1981

The Forest Research Institute has lost one of its foundation members with the death of John Gilmour last year.

John graduated from Canterbury with an M.Sc. in mycology and came to FRI in 1949 when the total staff numbered a few dozen. He and Joe Rawlings and Margaret Lancaster (now Mrs Orman) built on much of the earlier work that had been done in the 1930s by Birch. At that time the main need was to find out what diseases were affecting the forests and what degree of threat they posed.

His work in the 1950s included investigation of a number of difficult and little-understood conditions that needed sorting out. He laboured for years to track down the identity and assess the significance of a previously unknown pathogen he labelled "the Glenbervie fungus" (from its first location at Glenbervie by Ranger Des Ogle). It was certainly a killer but, as it turned out, was no match for the vigour of radiata pine once it was more than a few years old and also lacked the ability to distribute itself widely. In time the Glenbervie fungus became *Peniophora sacrata*, correctly named, understood, and put into perspective.

His work in the early 1950s included a "panic stations" alert when dozens of groups of dead trees appeared in Kaingaroa Forest just as it was coming into the utilisation era. Painstaking detective work showed that it was the result of lightning strike, although there was little to point to that. Contrary to popular belief the lightning discharged over, and killed, areas of up to half an acre each, and seldom struck a single tree. Typically of John and Joe they found that those trees which were struck and damaged but lived on laid down a narrow ring of abnormal tissue that could be seen under the microscope and which they called a "lightning ring". This feature was diagnostic for lightning strike and, presuming the tree continued to live, gave a means of finding out, years later, when the lightning had struck. And