

ALEXANDER, RAYMOND ALBERT (July 29, 1899 Germiston, South Africa – July 8, 1965, Pretoria, South Africa). *Veterinarian; Virology; Researcher*. Son of Frazer Frederick Alexander and Mary Alexander (née Gooch). Married Ethel Atherton Rawstone, 1927.

EDUCATION : University of Pretoria, 1922 : BSc (Agric); University of Pretoria, 1925 : BVSc; University of Pretoria, 1935 : DVSc.

CAREER : 1927 – 1928, research officer, Allerton Laboratory in Pietermaritzburg; 1928 – 1949, researcher in Section of Virology at Veterinary Research Institute, Onderstepoort; 1931, studied virology at the Strangeways Institute, Cambridge; 1950 – 1961, Director of Veterinary Services; 1958 – 1961, Professor of Infectious Diseases at Onderstepoort Faculty of Veterinary Science. 1961 – 1965, advisor to Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

CONTRIBUTIONS : As eminent researcher in virology, developed various polyvalent vaccines such as against African horsesickness with attenuated neurotropic virus strains and an egg-adapted bluetongue vaccine. With Neitz developed heartwater blood vaccine still in use today. Became increasingly administratively involved locally as outstanding leader and internationally involved in later years, *inter alia* giving expert advice to Egyptian government in 1944 on African horsesickness and to the USA government in 1953 on bluetongue.

HOMAGES AND DISTINCTIONS : Awarded the following: 1955, DSc (*honoris causa*) by University of Cape Town; 1957, Elected as Fellow of the Royal Society (South Africa); Honorary Professor of University of Madrid; Honorary Member of Medical Association of South Africa; 1961, elected Honorary Member of Section of Comparative Medicine of Royal Society of Medicine.

WRITINGS : Author or co-author of more than 60 publications; no published reference available; representative publications are the following : Studies on the neurotropic virus of horsesickness. I Neurotropic fixation. *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Science and Animal Industry* (1935), 291 – 321; The immunization of horses and mules against horsesickness by means of neurotropic virus of mice and guinea pigs. *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Science and Animal Industry* (1937), 375 – 391; The attenuation of bluetongue virus by serial passage through fertile eggs. *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Science and Animal Industry* (1947), 231 – 241.

REFERENCES / OBITUARIES : Obituary, 1965. *Journal of the South African Veterinary Medical Association*, Vol. 36, p411; Obituary, August 1965. *Scientiae*, p17.

C M CAMERON