

# DR S W J VAN RENSBURG

Oom Schalk, as he was affectionately called, by all those in the profession who knew him passed away peacefully on the fifth of August at the age of ninety-three. His passing marks in many ways the end of an era in Veterinary Science in South Africa - that of the grand old gentlemen who helped the profession in all its various facets to become established in this country, and who also laid the firm foundations on which education in Veterinary Science in South Africa now stands.

During his active professional life Oom Schalk became one of our leading scientists. His early pioneer work on domsiekte and tick-borne paralysis in sheep set him on a research course which was to cover a wide variety of important interests, culminating in his work on infertility in domestic stock and the establishment of artificial insemination in cattle as a viable and important industry in this country.

Those of us who were privileged to be his students will remember his great humility, sincerity, personal charm and patience, particularly in teaching the more ham-handed of us surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology. He knew us all personally and took a keen interest in our progress at University and our later careers in professional life. Although he knew us all by our first names, he never used them in the classroom situation, but



*Dr Schalk van Rensburg photographed on his 90th birthday in 1986 when he received the scroll of honour from the then president of the SAVA, Prof Theuns Naude.*

always maintained a proper, yet very warm teacher - student relationship.

Two of us, myself and Romyn Every became his sons-in-law and we were to experience an even deeper, warm and loving relationship with him - a relationship which he shared with all his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. We shall all remember him with deep affection, as no doubt will all of those who had dealings with him in all his wide spheres of interest.

**PROF MIKE BROWN**