Kathleen Lonsdale

A biographical memoir by
Dorothy M. C. Hodgkin, O.M., F.R.S.

Born in the year the Wright brothers first flew an aeroplane, Kathleen Lonsdale lived long enough to see moon-landings appear almost commonplace. The problems attendant on such spectacular advances in science and technology were among her most constant preoccupations, because she felt that scientists do have a special responsibility to try to ensure that science as a whole is rightly used.

This account of her life includes a complete bibliography of her scientific works, her own list of her travels abroad, and a note of her more substantial non-scientific publications.

Dorothy Hodgkin, the first Englishwoman to win a Nobel Prize, and the first one since Florence Nightingale to belong to the Order of Merit, is herself a distinguished crystallographer well known for her active interest in social problems and international affairs, and was the obvious choice to prepare this sympathetic appraisal of Kathleen Lonsdale’s life and work.

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P. M. S. Blackett

A biographical memoir

This outstanding Memoir, written by Sir Bernard Lovell for the Royal Society, describes the career of one of the most remarkable men of his generation, Lord Blackett, President of the Royal Society 1968–70, a peer among scientists, a thinker of great originality in military matters, a radical in politics and a man with a passionate concern for the underprivileged.

Sir Bernard shows how Blackett, trained as a naval officer and serving in World War I, became a scientist at Cambridge under Rutherford and achieved international fame in three fields of physics, atomic disintegrations, cosmic rays and palaeomagnetism, becoming a Nobel Laureate in 1948.

Sir Bernard Lovell, as a personal friend and colleague for 40 years, was in a unique position to observe events and he has written a Memoir of absorbing interest. The many facets of the life and work of Blackett brought out here surely indicate that he will find a place as one of the great men of the twentieth century.

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