Dr. Alexander William Evans (Professor Emeritus of Yale University)

Died on December 6, 1959, at the age of 91 years, from a complication of pneumonia following a treatment for broken hip. In his early days Dr. Evans was a prominent hepaticologist and later became one of the leading figures in lichenology. As early as in 1938, he adopted the paraphenylenediamine as a reagent of the thalline reaction, immediately after my proposal. In 1943, he published a paper entitled “Asahina’s Microchemical Studies on Cladoniae”, in which he confirmed my method completely and adopted and developed it further in his later investigations on Cladoniae. Regarding the taxonomical significance of chemical differences among the morphologically identical species, he was rather cautious in placing much weight upon chemism. However, in later days, he has entirely relied upon the accuracy of chemical data in segregating morphologically resembling species. In his paper “The Cladoniae of Florida” (1954) he arranged all species according to the Mattick’s new system.

Dr. Evans’ death is a great loss, not only to me as a personal friend of 30 years, but also to lichenological world. (Yasuhiko ASAHINA)