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Jonathan Gregson, Editor
Cambridge University Alumni Magazine
10 Trumpington Street
Cambridge CB2 1QA
England

Dear Editor,

I am happy to renew my contact with Cambridge, somehow lost in many moves since I left my post in King's Collrge in 1933 to join the faculty of Harvard University. I am now Professor Emeritus of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. I still have an office there but do most of my work at my Minneapolis home, indicated above, or at our other home: "Minnelea", 84060 Pioppi (SA) Italy, where we expect to be from the end of January until late in May 1993.

My work here, and in our other home in Italy, continues to be analyzing data and writing reports on prospective health studies I started in 1957 and continue in Finland, Italy, Greece, Yugoslavia, the Netherlands and Japan as well as in the United States. Just now I am comparing the characteristics and 25-year vital status of railroad workers in America and in Italy, men we first examined 30 years ago. With limited capacity for any physical work, I am a slave to the computer.

I learn that Adrian, now Lord Adrian, has retired from his post as Master of Pembroke College, and has resigned from the Chair of Cell Physiology. I recall an early morning when I was alone in the Physiology Building. The telephone rang and I answered it. The caller said he was in Stockholm, speaking for the Nobel Prize Committee to announce the award of the Nobel Prize. I rejoiced, thinking my boss, Joseph Barcroft, was getting the prize, but I was told Adrian was the winner. I knew Adrian but had never worked with him. No matter; I was happy that a Cambridge physiologist was being so honored.

At Cambridge I was with Joseph Barcroft at King's College and have many memories of my two years there, first as a post-doctoral Fellow of the Rockefeller Foundation, then as a very junior member of the Department of Physiology staff. I had a Ph.D. from the Universty of California but Barcroft wanted me to stay on at King's and thought a Cambridge degree would be useful. He didn't go so far as to say it would be better! With no doing on my part I was made a Ph.D. at Cambridge. As I recall, the formal award was in 1936 when I had moved to take a position on the faculty of Harvard Universty. Somewhere I still have the gown and bonnet.

I recall a curious incident in the spring of 1933. There was a puddle on the dirt road from the Physiology building to the

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building behind. Everyone was puzzled when the puddle remained during several weeks of good weather. I was always out early going to work and one morning I was unusually early and, lo and behold! there was my friend, Gilbert Adair, filling the puddle from a bucket of water. WE both put fingers to our lips to keep the secret of the everlasting puddle.

There are many fond memories of those years at Cambridge, now almost sixty years ago. Cambridge and King's College have changed over the years but not too much I hope. In any case, I have the best wishes for the future of the University and King's.

Sincerely,

Ancel Keys