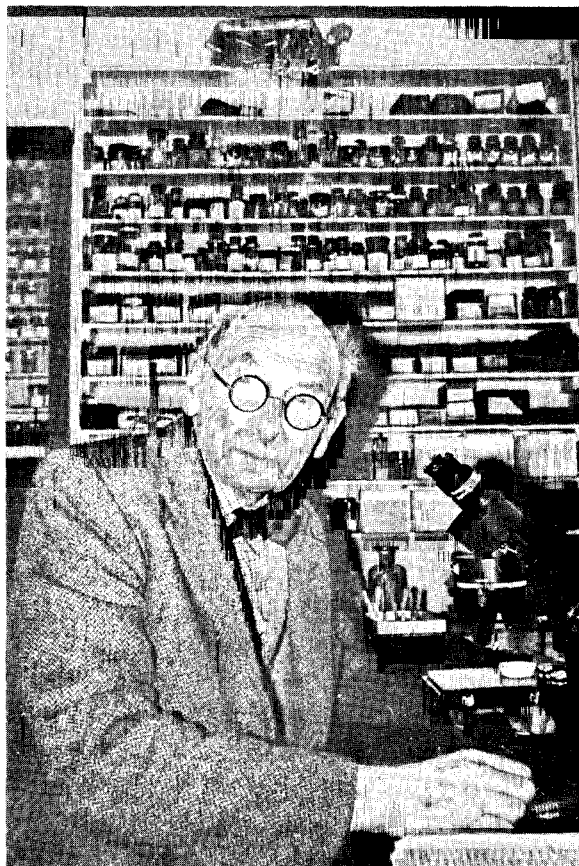


## Mr G. H. Locket – A tribute on his 80th birthday

G. H. (Ted) Locket, who is now the doyen of British arachnologists, will celebrate his 80th birthday on 12th August, 1980; his successful attainment of four score years will be greeted with affectionate congratulations and good wishes from his many friends in Britain and overseas. Although his formal training at Oxford was in the physical sciences (chemistry), and he spent the whole of his working life in the teaching profession, he has had a life-long interest in natural history. He fell an easy victim to the goddess Arachne, and his love affair with spiders started at an early age; indeed, he acquired copies of Blackwall's *Spiders of Great Britain and Ireland* and of Pickard-Cambridge's *Spiders of Dorset* while still at school, a feat which it would be difficult to emulate today! His early interest in spiders was nurtured and encouraged by A. R. Jackson, who in his turn had learnt from Pickard-Cambridge, who had sat at the feet of Blackwall – like Ted, all were amateurs in the best British traditions! His publications on spiders have spanned more than 60 years: his first (*The mating dances of spiders*, *Nature, Lond.* 106: 345) was in 1920, and he is still going strong in 1980 with the paper printed in this issue of the Bulletin. In this long period of activity he published (on his own, and jointly with Bristowe) some early papers on the mating habits of spiders, was a principal author of *British Spiders*, and published a series of important taxonomic papers on British and central African spiders. In 1954 he gave practical assistance and encouragement to budding arachnologists by instituting the first of the field study courses (at Malham Tarn in Yorkshire) devoted to the natural history and identification of British spiders. Not only British arachnologists will be grateful for the part he played in setting up (in 1958) and nursing through its early years the Flatford Mill Spider Group, which later (1964) became the British Spider Study Group and



G. H. Locket, March 1980

Photo: A. F. Millidge

finally in 1969 blossomed into the British Arachnological Society as it is today. He has served the Society well; his valuable work as President, Vice-president and member of Council should act both as example and as inspiration to the younger members of our Society. Amateur arachnologists in Britain have a reputation for longevity, and all his numerous friends will hope that he may follow in the tradition, and remain with us as part of the arachnological scene for many years to come!

A. F. M.