

BIGWOOD, Edouard Jean

Born: Brussels (1891)

Died: Brussels (1975)

Bigwood begins his medical studies in 1910 and following a four year interruption during WWI, graduates as a doctor in 1920. He is more interested in biochemistry than being a physician and obtains a grant to pursue research in the USA. On his return he specializes in this emerging branch of science and obtains his degree at the ULB (Free University of Brussels), at that time the only research center for biochemistry in Belgium. During a number of years he becomes a pioneer in the study of food chemistry, leading among others to a survey of the food conditions in Belgium during WWII. Later on he involves himself with the study of amino acids. In 1952, he becomes with Christian de Duve, Marcel Florkin (1900-1979), Paul Putzeys (1897-1982) and others co-founder of the Belgian Biochemical Society (actually the Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) to enable a Belgian association to join the International Union of Biochemistry of which he becomes chairman from 1960 till 1966. He has been the first president of the International Union of Nutritive Sciences.