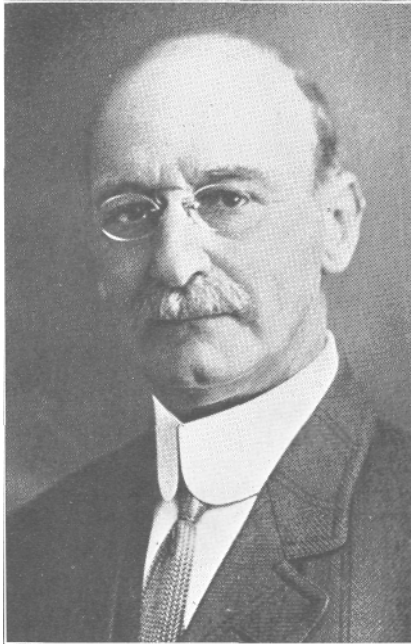


Myer Edward Jaffa—An Appreciation

October 6, 1857—June 28, 1931



Myer Edward Jaffa, Honorary Member of the California Avocado Association, pioneer advocate of pure foods for human consumption and for domestic animals, early investigator of the oil content and chemical constituents of the avocado, and for over half a century a member of the academic and research staff of the University of California at Berkeley, passed to his reward on June 28, 1931.

Professor Jaffa was born in Sydney, Australia, on the 6th of October, 1857. He was brought to California at the age of nine and entered the schools of San Francisco, where he prepared for admission to the University of California. He entered the University in 1873 and graduated therefrom with the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy in 1877. In 1896 his Alma Mater awarded him the degree of Master of Science. From the time of his graduation he was connected with the University's work, either through activities in the Agricultural Experiment Station or as a member of the faculty of the College of Agriculture. His labors concerned themselves with the application of chemistry to agricultural problems, chiefly with problems of food chemistry.

On account of his intense interest in the purity of food products he was largely instrumental in the passage of the California Food and Drug Laws, formulated on the same basis as the Federal Food and Drug Act of 1906. California thus became, through

Professor Jaffa's activities, one of the first states to adopt the new policies of the Federal Government in regard to the regulation of foods and drugs of the country. As Director of the State Food and Drug Laboratory from 1908-1915 and again from 1925 until his death, he was always a loyal and faithful servant, ministering to the needs of California's people in regard to a food supply of proper quality. While always striving to gain obedience to the food laws by means of cooperation and education, rather than by invoking the police powers of the state, he was never tolerant of fraudulent practices.

From assistant chemist in 1879, Professor Jaffa rose to the rank of Professor of Nutrition in 1908 and was retired with the title of Professor Emeritus of Nutrition in 1925.

Analyses of avocados were begun by Professor Jaffa and his laboratory associates about 1915. At the first semi-annual meeting of the California Avocado Association held at Los Angeles, October 23, 1915, he gave an excellent report on the "Food Value of the Avocado," comparing it with other fruits especially the olive in caloric value. Again in the 1916 Annual Report of this Association Professor Jaffa discussed "The Mineral Elements of the Avocado" and suggested the need for experimental work with avocado oil to overcome food deficiencies in growing animals and in human beings. He was a frequent attendant at Association meetings during the ensuing few years and with his associates contributed articles on the oil content and nutritive value of the avocado, the chemical constants of avocado oil, and a discussion of analyses of avocados from the standpoint of nutrition.

Professor Jaffa was a great believer in public service and consistently sought to make the Agricultural Experiment Station and the State Food and Drug Laboratory serve the needs of the people regarding such duties as properly within the scope of the state's responsibility to its citizens. At these tasks, he labored incessantly and with great industry. Modest and retiring, at times almost to the point of diffidence, he carried on with a cheerfulness and kindness which won him a host of friends and admirers. His work was never of the ostentatious kind, but of the substantial sort which frequently passes without the recognition which it deserves. Always generous of his time with those who sought his advice, he served faithfully and well.—I. J. C.