

Dame Kathleen Lonsdale*

Others have written about Dame Kathleen Lonsdale's scientific achievements; I wish to add a tribute to her as a person. She was one of the most thorough, high-principled, and courageous people I have known. We who work in the field of X-ray analysis cannot be too grateful for all she did to help us. Her early collaboration with Astbury in preparing an exhaustive survey of space groups was typical. The set of formulae for structure analysts, and the work on *International Tables* for the Union, were models of accuracy and ordered arrangement. No trouble was too great for her, and it was all done disinterestedly for the general good, much of it behind the scenes and in helping others.

I was in correspondence with her shortly before her death when she was trying to complete two books

which she had undertaken. One, on *Human Stones* (calculi) was planned because she had become aware of the suffering and mortality in many parts of the world due to their cause, and she was determined to finish her contribution towards its alleviation. I believe that while in hospital she worked thirteen hours a day in order to complete it. The other book, *Thermal Expansion of Molecular Solids*, was one in which I was especially interested because it was hoped it could be published in the *Crystalline State* series. The last letter I had from her was on 24 March, only a week before her death. She wrote most cheerfully and competently about the plans for it; one could never have guessed from her letters how seriously ill she was. Talking of her good progress she said 'So the postal strike was not wasted on me, nor the enforced "leisure" in hospital!'

Her pluck and determination to be of service to others knew no bounds.

* This appreciation of Dame Kathleen, who died on 1 April 1971, was one of the last things that Sir Lawrence wrote for publication. It seems appropriate to print it here. A full obituary of Dame Kathleen will appear in due course.

W. L. B.