

## F. KENDALL & SON, REGINALD E. EVANS AND CECIL HENRY DESCH

The following five pieces concern the brewers' chemist business, F. Kendall and Son. and two of their employees. The first article discusses the origins of the company in the 1830s and its subsequent growth into a major concern with clients as far a field as Australia. The dynamism of the first two Kendalls, Frederic and his son, George Frederic, ensured that, despite being based in a small country town, Stratford upon Avon, this was no provincial firm lacking ambition. Not only did it establish offices in London and Lille, but also won gold and silver medals for its products at the St. Louis Exhibition of 1904. Kendall's success led to a number of outcomes. Its expansion resulted in it having to move premises a number of times, eventually purchasing the old brewery buildings of Flower and Sons (Fig. 1) who themselves had relocated to the northern edge of the town.

Another effect was that it became an attractive place for young chemists to train and work. Reginald E. Evans arrived in the late 1880s and rose to become director in 1906. His skill was quickly recognised beyond Kendalls. For example, he gave the inaugural paper at

the Yorkshire Institute of Brewing aged just 22. His concerns were not only confined to the internal workings of the brewing process, he was also interested in how brewing was carried out overseas. The second paper in this collection was written after Evans had visited northern France and offers a rare insight into brewing in that region. Evans died when only 42 and the following two pieces are a letter from the company announcing his death and an obituary published in the *Journal of the Federated Institutes of Brewing*.

The final article is a memoir of Cecil Henry Desch. Born in London, Desch joined Kendalls aged 18, a few years after Evans. His eight years in Stratford laid the foundations for his future scientific career, giving him experience of subjects as diverse as bacteriology and high-magnification photography. When the Department of Fine Chemicals at Kendalls closed in 1900 he decided to move on, travelling to Germany where he undertook a PhD at Wurzburg University. Desch went on to become one of the most important figures in the study of metallurgy in the twentieth century and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1923.



Figure 1. F. Kendall & Son's works, Stratford upon Avon, in the former brewery of Flowers & Son. Source: Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Records Office, DR315/1/65.