

GENEALOGY DATABASE ENTRY

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Mendel, Lafayette Benedict

1872 - 1935

DEGREE: PhD

DATE: 1893

PLACE: Yale

TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: Chittenden

studied the enzymatic factors in digestion and the avenues of absorption by various nutrients; investigated the metabolism of iodine, of allantoin, of kynurenic acid, and of several pyrimidines and purines; contributed to the study of growth, showing that growth can occur at any time in the life of an animal, once the chemical environment (nutrition) is adequate; established that the diet must contain lysine and tryptophan - the first convincing proof that certain amino acids are essential components of the diet; co-discovered vitamin A; studied the nutritive value of many proteins; showed that the structural aspects that determine the individuality of proteins are lost by the digestive process and only their constituent amino acids have nutritive value; transformed nutrition from an empirical semi-science to a recognized branch of biochemistry.

1. *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*; Charles Scribner's Sons: 1970-1990; vol. 9, p284-286.
2. *J. Nutrition* **1956**, 60, 3-12.
3. *Biog. Mem. Nat. Acad. Sci.* **1937**, 18, 123-155.