

# Russell Henry Chittenden

**Russell Henry Chittenden** (18 February 1856 – 26 December 1943) was an American physiological chemist. He conducted pioneering research in the biochemistry of digestion and nutrition.

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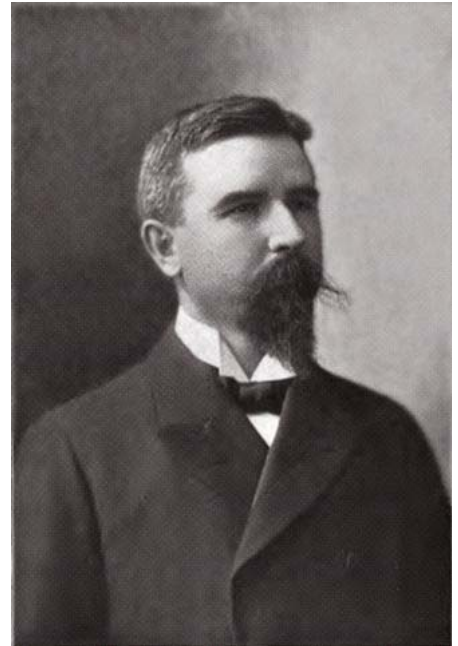
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## Russell Henry Chittenden



<b>Born</b>	February 18, 1856 <div>New Haven, Connecticut</div>
<b>Died</b>	December 26, 1943 (aged 87) <div>New Haven, Connecticut</div>
<b>Scientific career</b>	
<b>Fields</b>	Chemistry
<b>Institutions</b>	Yale University <div>Columbia University</div> <div>United States</div> <div>National Research Council</div>
<b>Doctoral advisor</b>	Wilhelm Kühne
<b>Doctoral students</b>	Lafayette Mendel

## Early life and education

He was born in New Haven, Connecticut in 1856, graduated from the Sheffield Scientific School at Yale in 1875, studied in Heidelberg in 1878-79, and received his doctorate at Yale in physiological chemistry in 1880. He was of English ancestry, his first ancestor in America being Major William Chittenden, an officer in the English army, who, having resigned, came to America from Cranbrook, Kent, with his wife, Joanne Sheaffe, in 1639, and settled in Guilford Connecticut. Ancestors of the professor on both his father's and his mother's side fought in the Revolutionary War. <sup>[1]</sup>

## Career

He was professor of physiological chemistry at Yale from 1882 to 1922. He was director of the Sheffield Scientific School from 1898-1922. He was also professor of physiology at the Yale School of Medicine starting in 1900. From 1898 to 1903 he was also a lecturer on physiological chemistry at Columbia University, New York. He was a founding member of the American Physiological Society in 1887 and served as its president from 1895 to 1904.<sup>[2]</sup> He was a member of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences.

He was the author of *Digestive Proteolysis* and *Physiological Economy in Nutrition* (New York, 1905). During World War I, Professor Chittenden was a member of the Advisory Committee on Food Utilization and also a member of the Executive Committee of the National Research Council. He is often called the "father of American biochemistry." His home in New Haven is a

## National Historic Landmark.

Chittenden advocated a low-protein diet.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Publications

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- *Physiological Economy in Nutrition* (<https://archive.org/details/physiologicaleco00chititala/page/n5>) (1904)
- *The Nutrition of Man* (<https://archive.org/details/nutritionofman00chitrich/page/n5>) (1907)

## References

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1. Men of Mark in Connecticut: Ideals of American Life Told in Biographies and Autobiographies of Eminent Living Americans, Volume 1 page 116
2. "Russell Henry Chittenden" (<http://www.the-aps.org/fm/presidents/Chittenden.html>). *Presidents*. American Physiological Society. Retrieved 22 March 2015. "3rd APS President (1896-1904)"
3. Gilman, Sander L. (2007). *Diets and Dieting: A Cultural Encyclopedia*. Routledge. p. 60. ISBN 978-0-415-97420-2.


## Sources

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- Chittenden at Yale Medical School (<http://www.med.yale.edu/library/exhibits/yalemed2/>)
- G.R. C., 1944. Russell Henry Chittenden, February 18, 1856 - December 26, 1943. An appreciation. *The Journal of Nutrition*, 28 (1), 2-6. Article (<http://jn.nutrition.org/cgi/reprint/28/1/2.pdf>)
- Lewis, H.B., 1944. Russell Henry Chittenden, (1856 - 1943). *The Journal of Biological Chemistry*, 153 (2), 339-342. Article (<http://www.jbc.org/cgi/reprint/153/2/339.pdf>)
- Vickery, H.B., 1944. Russell Henry Chittenden, 1856 - 1943. *National Academy of Sciences, Biographical Memoirs*, 24, 59-104. Article (<http://books.nap.edu/html/biomems/rchittenden.pdf>)

## External links

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-  "Sketch of Russell H. Chittenden". *Popular Science Monthly*. **53**. May 1898.
  - Russell Chittenden at Find-a-grave ([http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSI\\_n=Chittenden&GSsr=321&GRid=6684068&](http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSI_n=Chittenden&GSsr=321&GRid=6684068&))
  - National Academy of Sciences Biographical Memoir (<http://www.nasonline.org/publications/biographical-memoirs/memoir-pdfs/chittenden-russell-h-1.pdf>)
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