

DR. AUGUST DUPRÉ, F.R.S.

A WELL-KNOWN name vanishes from the list of leading analytical chemists by the death of Dr. August Dupré, which occurred at Sutton on July 15.

Like a number of chemists whose names readily come to mind—Hoffmann, Schorlemmer, and Lunge, for example—Dupré was born and educated in Germany, but in early manhood crossed the North Sea to seek a sphere for his talents in England. He had studied chemistry under Bunsen; and in 1855, at the age of twenty, he graduated at Heidelberg with the degree of Ph.D. Coming soon afterwards to this country, his first appointment of importance was that of lecturer in chemistry at Westminster Hospital, in 1864. Two years later he became a naturalised British subject. Concurrently with his lecturing duties, Dupré also undertook those of chemical referee to the medical department of the Local Government Board and public analyst for Westminster; and for many years he was chemical adviser to the explosives department of the Home Office, a position which he held at the time of his death.

As might be expected, Dupré's original work in chemistry bore chiefly upon points arising in his own domain of chemical analysis. Some two dozen communications appeared during the period 1876–1902 in the *Analyst*, the *Journals of the Chemical Society* and the *Society of Chemical Industry*, and in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*. None were epoch-making, but all were useful; their general character will be shown by the titles of a few of them:—"The Composition and Analysis of Butter Fat" (1876); "On Copper in Food" (1877); "The Estimation of Urea by Means of Hypobromite" (1877); "On the Estimation of Dissolved Oxygen in Water" (1885); "Changes in the Proportion of Acid and Sugar present in Grapes during Ripening"; "The Specific Heat and other Physical Characters of Mixtures of Methyl Alcohol and Water"; "The Explosion of Potassium Chlorate by Heat" (1902). In addition, Dupré made various reports upon explosives, and was joint author with Drs. Thudichum and Hake respectively of two well-known treatises, viz., "The Origin, Nature, and Varieties of Wines," and "A Short Manual of Inorganic Chemistry."

The crown of Dupré's professional career was his election to the Royal Society in 1875. To the general public, however, he was probably best known as the analyst whose dangerous duty it was to examine the explosives used in the Fenian scares of a generation ago—notably the one in which nitroglycerine was found in process of manufacture on a large scale at Birmingham in 1883.

Concerned chiefly with the practical applications of chemistry, Dupré was no leader in its philosophy, but his name is honourably associated with the advancement in this country of the profession he adopted when making this country his home.

C. S.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION AT LEICESTER.

THIS week sees the opening of the seventy-seventh annual meeting of the British Association, and there are indications that at Leicester the Association will receive the heartiest of welcomes, and that the deliberations of its members will be followed with deep interest by the inhabitants generally. The financial position must be very gratifying to all concerned; the whole of the promised subscriptions are in the bank, and have earned quite a good sum as interest. When it is borne in mind that no public appeal has

been made, but that the money has readily been subscribed, this happy result speaks highly as to the generosity of the townspeople and the manner in which they have been approached.

The Mayor (Sir Edward Wood) is most anxious that Leicester should prove its full appreciation of having been chosen as this year's meeting place, and that the many visitors to the ancient borough should carry away a lasting impression of its hospitality and desire for comfort. The local programme tells of Sir Edward Wood's wish to come into as close touch as possible with every visitor, in its record of an evening *fête* in the Abbey Park at which it is anticipated 3000 will be present. His Worship is supplementing this by entertaining on the following evening the officials of the Corporation, the teachers of the town, infirmary nurses, &c., and he has invited the old people from the Trinity Hospital, almshouses, the cripples of the town, and others, to meet him in the same park on the Saturday—all this in commemoration of the visit—which he desires should be a lasting, pleasurable recollection.

We have already spoken of the excellent arrangements made by the local executive, with Mr. Alfred Colson as its chairman, of the sectional meetings, interesting excursions and visits to works planned to add to the enjoyment of the men of science. Each member attending the meeting is to receive a copy of the special edition of "Glimpses of Ancient Leicester," a book written by a Leicester lady, and also to have a capital guide to Leicester and neighbourhood, with a map, prepared under the direction of the publications subcommittee, and containing specially written articles by experts on Charnwood Forest; stone roads, canals, edge-railways, outcrops, railways, &c., of Leicestershire; geology; the pre-Cambrian rocks; palæontology, cryptogamic flora of Leicestershire; botany; zoology; entomology; and a bibliography of town and county. These, it is hoped, will serve as memoirs of the town's welcome and a most successful week's work.

The Mayor, Recorder, Town Clerk, and others will attend the official service at St. Martin's Church on the Sunday morning, at which the Bishop of Southwark (Dr. Talbot) will preach. The Bishop of the diocese (Dr. Carr Glynn) is giving an address at St. Peter's Church, and other eminent men are preaching at various churches and chapels, so that the harmony of religion and science will doubtless receive every justice. The leading clubs of the town have freely opened their doors to "temporary members," and the full advantages of golfing and bowls are offered to all interested.

The tramcar service of the town is a most complete one, and every facility for quick transit is given. A favourite daily rendezvous will undoubtedly be the "loggia" erected adjacent to, and connected with, the town museum buildings, and here, if the weather is fine, a quiet rest, a cup of tea, and the music of the band of the Seaforth Highlanders will prove thoroughly enjoyable, and a relief to the heavier work of the sectional meetings.

Next year the Association is to meet at Dublin, and by a happy thought a deputation of the following gentlemen, Sir Howard Grubb, F.R.S., Rev. Dr. W. Delaney, and Prof. W. H. Thompson, will be the guests of the local executive at Leicester.

We hope that in a future issue we may be able to congratulate the Association on the complete success of its last annual meeting, the large attendance of its members, the high quality of the papers read and discussed and lectures given; and Leicester upon its generous welcome and hospitality.