

and their functions, and in Roy F. Nichol's paper on "War and Research in Social Science", Prof. R. L. Schuyler's paper on "War and Historiography" and Marjorie Nicholson's paper, there are stimulating comments and contributions to the fundamental thinking and philosophy on which alone the wise organization and direction of scientific research can be based.

## OBITUARIES

### Prof. W. E. H. Berwick

WILLIAM EDWARD HODGSON BERWICK, who died at Bangor on May 13, 1944, was professor of mathematics in the University College of North Wales from 1926 until his retirement, due to ill-health, in 1941. The title of emeritus professor was then conferred upon him by the University of Wales.

Berwick was born at Bradford on March 11, 1888, and was educated at Bradford Grammar School and at Clare College, Cambridge, of which he was a scholar from 1906 until 1910. He was bracketed Fourth Wrangler with C. G. Darwin and G. H. Livens in the Tripos of 1909 (the last year of the order of merit). In 1910 he was placed in the first class of Part II of the Tripos, and he was a Smith's Prizeman in 1911. His mathematical distinction was later recognized by a fellowship at his old College (1921-24) and by a Cambridge Sc.D. in 1925.

After two years as assistant lecturer at Bristol, Berwick went to Bangor as assistant lecturer and afterwards lecturer. Here he remained until 1920, except for two years spent in the anti-aircraft experimental section of the Munitions Inventions Department. At Bangor he had a congenial colleague in G. B. Mathews, who for many years had been almost the only worker on number-theory in England. From Bangor, Berwick went to Leeds, as lecturer and afterwards reader in mathematical analysis.

He was appointed to the chair at Bangor in 1926. Shortly after this, his health began to deteriorate, but he struggled with great courage and fortitude, against increasing disabilities, to continue his teaching work and research.

Berwick's mathematical activity was concerned entirely with number-theory, the theory of equations, and topics arising out of them. His main publication was a Cambridge tract, "Integral Bases", in which he developed methods for determining an integral basis for any algebraic number-field. In particular, such a basis is determined for the field defined by  $\sqrt[n]{a}$ . This required the discussion of twenty-three separate cases, depending on the nature of the common factors of  $n$  and  $a$ . The tract is a substantial contribution to algebraic number-theory, and it exhibits Berwick's interest in, and remarkable talent for, difficult enumerations and calculations. This talent was also shown in his calculations dealing with the complex multiplication of the elliptic functions.

Berwick also edited a second edition of Mathews' tract on "Algebraic Equations", to which he added appreciably. He published a number of original papers on complex multiplication and on the resolvents of quintic and sextic equations. He gave a good exposition of the latter subject in a lecture to the London Mathematical Society (printed in the *Journal*, 3; 1928).

Prof. Berwick leaves a widow, to whom all sympathy is due. H. DAVENPORT.

We regret to announce the following deaths:

Lieut.-Colonel L. F. Goodwin, professor of industrial chemistry and chemical engineering in the Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, on August 15.

Prof. G. F. Stout, during 1903-36 professor of logic and metaphysics in the University of St. Andrews, on August 18, aged eighty-four.

## NEWS and VIEWS

Mathematics at Bedford College, London:

### Retirement of Prof. Harold Simpson

PROF. HAROLD SIMPSON retires from the chair of mathematics at Bedford College, University of London, at the end of the present session. After a distinguished career at Oxford and a short period at Bangor, North Wales, he became head of the Mathematics Department at Bedford College in 1907 and was appointed professor there in 1912. Prof. Simpson has contributed many important articles on various topics to mathematical and scientific periodicals; in addition, he has written four valuable books. (These have appeared under the name Hilton, which Prof. Simpson gave up in 1939.) The first of these, on "Mathematical Crystallography", appeared in 1903, and his interest in this application of mathematics continues; he has served on the council of the Mineralogical Society on various occasions since 1908 and often attended the meetings of the Geology Section of the British Association. His next books, on "Finite Groups" (1907) and "Homogeneous Linear Substitutions" (1914), are in certain respects an almost essential complement to his first, having regard to the state of algebraic knowledge in Britain at the time. His other book, "Algebraic Plane Curves" (1920, 1932), is well known both to teachers and to

students. Prof. Simpson has served on the council of the London Mathematical Society since 1915 and has been librarian since 1925.

Prof. Simpson played a very active and useful part in the affairs of the University of London. In particular, his colleagues will remember the skill and patience which he exercised in dealing with the business of the various committees with which he was concerned. Many hundreds of students of Bedford College will remember with gratitude his exceptional ability as a teacher; his sympathetic and understanding nature was particularly apparent to those students not so gifted in his subject, but all regard him with affection. Outside his own subject and in addition to his interest in geology, Prof. Simpson was deeply interested in architecture and in music. Students at Bedford College will remember the excursions he organized for them to various centres of architectural interest and his activities with them in the College Musical Society.

### Appointment of Dr. W. N. Bailey

DR. W. N. BAILEY, Richardson lecturer in pure mathematics in the University of Manchester, has been appointed to the University chair of mathematics at Bedford College, London. He is perhaps