

is daily self-evident. The theoretical physicist using the dielectric approach has probably made a more remarkable contribution to the theory of the solid state and, to a less extent, the liquid state; but his fertility has rather overwhelmed the experimentalist. The rich and varied experimental techniques disclosed at these meetings give, however, high promise for the eventual elucidation of these difficult but fundamental problems.

## OBITUARY

### Sir George Julius

WHEN the Australian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research was established in 1926, Sir (then Mr.) George Julius was invited to take the part-time chairmanship of the Council and of its Executive Committee. He held office until the end of 1945, and so was intimately associated with all the developments of this virile organisation during its first twenty years. He died on June 28 at the age of seventy-three.

Born in Norwich, Julius was educated at the Church of England Grammar School in Melbourne and later at the University of New Zealand, where he attended classes with his contemporary and friend, Ernest Rutherford. Graduating in engineering, he was appointed in 1896 to a post in the Locomotive Department of the Western Australian Railways, and while there he carried out an extensive investigation of the mechanical properties of Australian hardwoods. After eleven years he left Government service and set up as a consulting engineer in Sydney. His firm (later Julius, Poole and Gibson) was in the

course of years associated with very many of the main engineering enterprises of Australia.

Sir George's personal contacts were wide, but his chief interest lay always in mechanical invention, much of his work being done in a very fine private workshop at his beautiful home at Darling Point on the edge of Sydney Harbour. He is perhaps best known to most people for his work on the Julius totalizer, now in use on many racecourses throughout the world. His father, the late Churchill Julius, formerly Archbishop and Primate of New Zealand, and himself no mean amateur engineer, was always deeply interested in his son's inventions, including all improvements to the totalizer; but he was careful to preface an approach to the subject by a declaration that such machines might well be sunk in the Harbour!

In 1898 Julius married Eva, the third daughter of another very famous Australian engineer, Mr. C. Y. O'Connor, who built the Mundaring Weir at Perth and, despite deplorable political interference, carried through to complete success a scheme for the transmission of water from Mundaring to the goldfields of Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie.

As president of such bodies as the Australian Institution of Engineers, the Engineering Association of New South Wales, and the Electrical Association of New South Wales, Sir George played a notable part in the professional public life of his adopted country. He was knighted in 1929 and later received the honorary degree of D.Sc. from the University of New Zealand. His last visit to England was in 1927, when he attended the Empire Agricultural Conference which led to the establishment of the Imperial Agricultural Bureaux. DAVID RIVETT

## NEWS and VIEWS

### New President of the British Association:

#### Sir Henry Dale, O.M., G.B.E., F.R.S.

SIR HENRY DALE has been elected president for the year 1946 of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Sir Henry was formerly director of the National Institute for Medical Research and for ten years before that he directed the Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories (1907-14). He has achieved world recognition for his work on the physiological effects of histamine, a derivative of ergot, which was followed by brilliant researches resulting in the isolation of histamine and acetylcholine from animal tissues. Later work was devoted to examining the part played by these substances in physiological and pathological processes. Many other research workers have carried out their investigations under Sir Henry's guidance.

But apart from his own scientific research work, Sir Henry Dale has taken a very active part in the organisation of scientific work in Great Britain. For ten years (1925-35) he was one of the secretaries of the Royal Society of London and in 1940 was elected president of the Society—an office which he filled with conspicuous success until his statutory resignation in 1940. Until September of this year he is director of the laboratories and Fullerian professor of the Royal Institution—a post he has

held since 1942. He is also a member of the Medical Research Council. He is a foreign member of numerous learned societies throughout the world. It is clear that in view of Sir Henry's outstanding career both as a scientific research worker and as administrator and organiser, the Council of the British Association has made an eminently wise choice for its next president.

### Botany at the Fouad I University, Cairo

#### Prof. F. J. Lewis

PROF. F. J. LEWIS has recently retired from the chair of botany in the Fouad I University, Cairo, which he has held since 1935. A graduate of the University of Liverpool, he devoted himself to ecological investigations and published a number of important papers on the post-glacial beds of the peat mosses of the north of England and also of Scotland. He gave up his lectureship in Liverpool to become professor in the newly founded university of Alberta, where he continued his ecological work, relating it to the rigorous climatic conditions of Canada. It must have been a great change for him to settle in Egypt; but new opportunities for ecological investigations presented themselves and led him to the establishment of a desert laboratory some little distance from Cairo. Very different problems also presented themselves by the accumula-