In 1921, Gunn returned to Egypt and took part in the excavations at Amarna, and was afterwards appointed to a post in the Service des Antiquités of the Egyptian Government, when he carried out excavations in the pyramid-field at Sakkara and was an assistant conservator of the Cairo Museum. Thence he passed to Philadelphia, where he was curator of the Egyptian Department of the Museum (1931-34). The death of Prof. Peet in 1934 rendered the Oxford chair of Egyptology vacant and Gunn was appointed his successor. It was here that he found scope for imparting his vast knowledge to others. This privilege was not only reserved for his own pupils but was freely at the service of his colleagues and friends, especially of young students at the outset of their careers. Gunn never forgot that he was once a beginner himself, and he took infinite pains to give of his best to all who applied to him for help; indeed, his letters, of which I have many and have seen many more, are veritable monographs of their respective subjects.

Gunn's published output, in terms of mere numbers, is not large. There are two reasons for this: first, he set himself so high a standard that he never printed any merely interim or provisional work, but always delayed it until he was satisfied that it contained the best he was capable of putting into it; and secondly, he devoted so much of his time to the service of others that he deprived himself of the benefit of many of his working hours.

Gunn received the honorary degree of M.A. of Oxford, the fellowship of the Queen's College, and was elected in 1934 to the British Academy.

W. R. DAWSON

Prof. W. P. Wynne, F.R.S.

WILLIAM PALMER WYNNE died on February 16 at Urmiston, near Manchester, in his ninetieth year. The eldest son of a boot manufacturer, Wynne grew up under strict Victorian discipline. At King Edward School, Birmingham, he developed a special interest in chemistry. He was eventually apprenticed to a firm of manufacturing pharmacists, and worked at evening classes, so gaining a free studentship to the Royal College of Science, London, where he graduated with distinction.

In 1886 he became private research assistant to Prof. H. E. Armstrong at the Central Technical College, South Kensington, London, and in 1889 was appointed lecturer. Two years later he succeeded F. R. Japp as assistant professor at the Royal College of Science, serving successively under Profs. T. E. Thorpe and W. Tilden, but still collaborating with Armstrong in his research work.

After two years as professor to the Pharmaceutical Society, Wynne was appointed in 1904 to the Firth chair of chemistry in the University College of Sheffield, which was granted its charter as a full university in the following year. From this time onwards he was increasingly occupied with administrative duties. He was dean of the Faculty of Science continuously during 1911-31 and a member of the Finance Committee of the University for most of that time. Wynne took a leading part in the development of the University; he was particularly interested in student affairs and was largely responsible for the provision of adequate playing fields and their proper equipment. The Chemistry Department flourished under Wynne; but his official duties left him little time for research work. He retired in 1931,

at the age of seventy, as emeritus professor, and moved to Cambridge, where his old friend, Sir William Pope, provided him with a laboratory. During the next fifteen years he was able to return to his earlier work on naphthalene and to extend it.

Wynne took his full share in the work of scientific societies, having served as honorary secretary, editor and president (1923-25) of the Chemical Society, and presided over Section B of the British Association at Birmingham in 1913. He was elected to the Royal Society in 1896. During 1938-43 he was a member of the University Grants Committee. He was also a representative of the Sheffield diocese in the National Assembly of the Church of England. He was twice married and had three children, of whom one, a daughter, survives him.

The work which Wynne carried out with Armstrong during the years 1886-97 was of classical importance in developing the chemistry of naphthalene. Its object was to discover the laws of substitution in naphthalene and to provide sure means of determining the orientation of the many substituted naphthalenes that were being discovered. To this end, they first established the existence and the identity of each of the ten possible dichloronaphthalenes. Most of these had already been described by Cleve and other European workers, but Wynne's experiments showed that two of these were non-existent. The sulphonation products of all the dichloronaphthalenes were studied. Displacement of the sulphonyl chloride group gave in each case a trichloronaphthalene, and in this way eight of the fourteen possible trichloronaphthalenes were also identified. Further work led to the isolation and orientation of the remaining six isomerides. The thoroughness with which this work was checked is shown by the fact that, in all, fifty-three independent synthetical preparations were made yielding one or other of the fourteen isomerides.

During these eleven years Armstrong and Wynne made forty-one communications to the Chemical Society on naphthalene chemistry, and much new light was thrown on the naphthylaminedisulphonic acids, the structure of several important members of this group being demonstrated. The collaboration was unfortunately interrupted at the end of 1897, and various circumstances delayed the completion of the work. It is regrettable that the authors did not at that time give full experimental details of their work, which appeared only as short papers in the *Proceedings of the Chemical Society*. The responsibility for this, however, undoubtedly rested on the senior worker, Armstrong.

In 1941, in collaboration with Miss E. G. Turner, Wynne published a further important paper, describing the products of sulphonating all the trichloronaphthalenes, in which the production of fifteen of the twenty-two possible tetrachloronaphthalenes was also recorded, in seven of which the orientation was proved, and in each of the others the position of three of the chlorine atoms was certain. Two years later he described a new tetranitronaphthalene. He also published a series of investigations of the sulphonic acids of the chlorotoluenes.

Wynne's work on naphthalene was monumental, and it is fitting that a beautiful collection of some 465 of his specimens should now be preserved in the Research Department of the Dyestuffs Division of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.

G. M. BENNETT