On each evening of the celebrations, for the first time in the history of St. Andrews, certain of its picturesque buildings were floodlit: these included St. Salvator's Chapel, the United College, the romantic ruins of the Castle and Cathedral, Holy Trinity

Church and the West Port. Altogether, the fame that St. Andrews has won as an unsurpassed setting for charming and dignified academic ceremonials has never been better justified than on this memorable occasion in the long history of the University.

OBITUARIES

Field Marshal the Right Hon. J. C. Smuts, O.M., C.H., F.R.S.

IN the course of a long and exceptionally active life, Smuts acquired an outstanding reputation as lawyer, soldier, statesman, writer and philosopher. It would have been surprising if a man so versatile had been lacking in appreciation of those advances in the knowledge and practical application of science which have been perhaps the most distinctive feature of the age in which he lived: nor, indeed, was he. He had, I think, no technical training in scientific matters; but I can testify that he followed developments closely and was keenly alive to the social and economic implications of recent scientific discoveries and to their bearing on international relations.

I had many talks with him during the War about the significance of the work on nuclear energy to which so much time and money were being devoted, and I had the opportunity in that connexion of introducing him to Prof. Niels Bohr, whose distinguished record was already familiar to him and of whom he had become an ardent admirer. Thereafter they had many discussions together in my presence. Smuts was thrilled by the possible economic significance of the discovery of vast quantities of low-grade uranium ore in the gold-bearing formations of the Rand. In quite another connexion I found that he had been following with the liveliest interest the recent spectacular discoveries demonstrating the South African origin of the earliest known forms of prehistoric man.

It is, however, in the argument by which Smuts developed the philosophical conception to which he applied the term 'holism' that one finds the clearest evidence of his extensive knowledge and understanding of the course of recent scientific researches. In successive chapters he sets out in non-technical language the basic theories of atomic structure, relativity, the doctrine of the space-time continuum, quantum theory, cell structure, Mendelism and much else. All this collated information serves to sustain his first main contention that the chief gaps in human knowledge are those which separate the phenomena of matter, life and mind, and leads up to, without establishing, his suggestion that in the grand design of the universe there must be an essential unity. From this, two broad conclusions emerge. The mysteries of life and mind may perhaps, when the key has been discovered, be unravelled in the same way as the mysteries of matter; and, while humanity may pass through a "series of vast secular crises", and may be passing through such a period now, all will eventually develop according to the master plan of the Creator. Incidentally, in the absence of knowledge of that master plan, mere human planning will be largely vain, as Smuts more than hinted in his inaugural speech as Chancellor of the University of Cambridge. His faith was ardent, and such was its basis.

In all discussions, military, political or philosophical, the serenity of the man's mind was remarkable. It is, indeed, a tragedy that at this juncture the world should be deprived of his wise, kindly and courageous counsel.

JOHN ANDERSON

Prof. H. Gordon Jackson

BIRKBECK COLLEGE, the University of London and zoological circles have suffered a sad loss by the recent death in a road accident of Harold Gordon Jackson, master of the College and professor emeritus of zoology in the University. Born in Sussex in 1888, he passed his early days in Liverpool, attending Merchant Taylors' School and the University of Liverpool. When qualified, he was appointed research assistant to Sir William Herdman, and spent much time at the Marine Laboratory, Port Erin, and at sea on Herdman's yacht, so acquiring a fondness for marine biology and Crustacea which characterized his later zoological work. In 1913 he was appointed to a lectureship at the University of Birmingham; but the tenure of this was interrupted by service with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment during the First World War.

A long association with the University of London was begun in 1921, when Jackson was appointed reader and head of the Zoology Department at Birkbeck College, newly admitted by the Senate as a school of the University. From that date he played an outstanding part in the development of the Department of Zoology and of the College itself, so that in 1941, when an acting master was required, he was the obvious choice; on Sir John Maud's resignation in 1943, he was persuaded—much against his will, for it meant a cessation of zoological work—to accept the mastership. Started reluctantly, as it was, and at a time when war dangers made the very physical existence of the College a continuous hazard, his period of mastership was an immense personal success. The University pressed the excellent administrator that he proved to be into service in many capacities, so that at the time of his death Prof. Jackson was deputy vice-chancellor, chairman of the Academic Council and a governor of four of its schools. Other bodies, too, gladly took advantage of his skill, and he was, at one time or another, on the Council of the Association of British Zoologists, the Council for the Promotion of Field Studies, the Freshwater Biological Association and the Marine Biological Association.

Prof. Jackson's scientific work was almost entirely concerned with Crustacea, in later years predominantly with the systematics of land isopods, on which he published many important papers. But zoology was only one of many things in which he was deeply interested: music, architecture and literature all occupied his attention, and he could talk as understandingly to his Faculty of Arts as to his Faculty of Science. The main appeal of these (another link with