

was beset with formidable obstacles; but Brooks was endowed with great resolution and persistence. At Sexey's School he learnt more than the formal subjects of teaching; he acquired the habit of methodical working, even at unattractive tasks, and also of concentration. In later life, as at school, his forceful and forthright character was tempered by friendliness and geniality, and mellowed by a robust sense of humour. He possessed unbounded energy, both physical and mental. At Cambridge he played tennis and squash rackets with great zest, and until fairly late in life he took an early morning dip in the river as a regular practice throughout the year. Often, also, in going home to his beloved West Country he would take train to Bristol and walk the twenty miles over the Mendips to Wells. He was fond of travel, and his botanical wanderings took him as far away as Malaya and Australia.

Besides his heavy teaching and administrative duties at the Botany School, he took a leading part in the councils of Emmanuel College. He was also a governor of his old School, a member of an unusual number of committees and commissions, and he served for a period as joint general secretary of the British Association. As a chairman he was particularly effective; for his firmness and honesty of purpose, his shrewd common sense, and his outspoken and good-tempered judgments appealed to all. His mind was of a strongly practical cast, and so it came about that his interests ranged far beyond the limits of academic mycology and botany into their applications in gardening, fruit-growing, cider-making, agriculture, rubber-cultivation, and the like.

The short and sturdy figure with the purposeful air, the ruddy good-humoured countenance, the strong West-country voice, the cheery greeting, the hearty and infectious laugh, the warm welcome, the unnumbered acts of kindness, will not lightly be forgotten:

"But now we hope his kindly feâce  
Is gone to vind a better pleâce;  
But still, wi' vo'k a-left behind  
He'll always be a-kept in mind".

JOHN READ

#### Lord Lindsay of Birker, C.B.E.

LORD LINDSAY OF BIRKER, Master of Balliol College in the University of Oxford from 1924 until 1949, and latterly principal of the University College of North Staffordshire, died on March 18 at the age of seventy-two. His writing and teaching were in the field of philosophy; but his influence in education extended far beyond his subject and outside the College where most of his working life was spent.

Only a few of his many activities can be mentioned here. He played a large part in the establishment and development in Oxford of the Honour School of Philosophy, Politics and Economics, believing that the study of philosophy should not always depend on a classical background, but should be related to contemporary social problems. He also urged, though in vain, the foundation of a school based upon the joint study of philosophy and the principles of natural science. He was vice-chancellor of the University of Oxford during 1935-37, a period which saw many important developments, including the Nuffield bequests for medicine and social sciences. During the Second World War he was chairman of the Oxford Joint Recruiting Board, and handled

with humanity and understanding the many problems arising from the call-up of students from the University. When an international commission was appointed after the War to consider the future of the German universities, Lindsay was the only British member, and his wide knowledge and good humour eased many difficult situations. All these activities (and many others) were not just the automatic accretions of an able administrator, but were causes for which he felt deeply and worked unsparringly.

Lord Lindsay was always keenly interested in education outside the conventional framework of academic study, for example, in the Workers' Educational Association and education in the Armed Forces. It was typical of his pioneering spirit that at the age of seventy he accepted the invitation to become the first principal of the University College of North Staffordshire, in the foundation of which he played a leading part. Here he was able to initiate an educational experiment which embodied several of his own ideas, notably a first-year course common to students of all faculties.

Many institutions owe much to Lord Lindsay, and many individuals will remember him with affection as an inspiring teacher and colleague.

#### Mr. John Wylie

JOHN WYLIE died at Larne, Co. Antrim, on February 29 at the age of eighty-six, after a short illness. He rendered great service to the Queen's University of Belfast, of which he was a B.A. (1890) and an M.Sc. *honoris causa* (1948), during the forty-eight years that he was a member of the staff of the Physics Department. As demonstrator (1897-1919) and lecturer (1919-30) he was given charge of the undergraduate teaching laboratories by the late Prof. W. B. Morton. These were at first in the old college block but later, after 1914, were in the present physics building, which was erected to Wylie's plans. When he reached the normal retiring age in 1930, the post of workshop superintendent was created for him. Especially in the period between 1920 and the time of his ultimate retirement, when he had the able assistance of Mr. Adam Buick as mechanic, he produced much beautiful apparatus for teaching and research throughout the University, with the most meagre shop equipment. He also acted for many years as secretary to both the Matriculation Board and the General Board of Studies of the University. Wylie was a modest man of simple tastes, hiding great kindness behind a superficially abrupt manner. In younger days, he was a keen yachtsman, and well known as the designer of the Waverley yacht. He remained active, mentally and physically, until the last month of his life. He is survived by his wife.

K. G. EMELÉUS

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. Paul Dienes, formerly professor of mathematics in the University of London (Birkbeck College), on March 23.

Dr. L. Dobbin, formerly reader in chemistry in the University of Edinburgh, on March 3, aged ninety-three.

Mr. Henry Woods, F.R.S., formerly University lecturer in palaeozoology, Cambridge, on April 4, aged eighty-three.