1933. The Emperor Hirohito of Japan received him in private audience in 1933, and in 1940 the Japanese Government awarded him the Order of the Rising Sun (third class).

Vaughan's was a lively mind, which was not restricted to the scientific field. He had studied music in Europe, was a life-long admirer of Oliver Goldsmith, and had a high regard for ancient Greek philosophy. He was a generous host, and a willing helper to those who appealed to him in their scientific work. The last years of his life were clouded by seriously failing eyesight and ill-health. His wife, whom he married in 1909, died in 1951, and he himself, at the age of eighty-one, died on January 16 as the result of a stroke.   H. DIGHTON THOMAS

Dr. Leonard Dobbin

A LINK with the past has been broken by the death of Dr. Leonard Dobbin, which occurred at Edinburgh on March 3, for Dr. Dobbin was recognized for many decades as one of our leading investigators in the history of chemistry. Born at Belfast on July 30, 1858, Dr. Dobbin in his ninety-fourth year was still actively interested in his favourite field of research—frail in body, but with mind alert and unimpaired.

His early studies were at Queen's College, Belfast, and at the Royal College of Science, London; in 1880 he obtained the degree of Ph.D. at Würzburg and was appointed an assistant in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Edinburgh under Prof. Crum Brown. In 1894 he was promoted to a lectureship, and retired with the rank of reader in 1924.

A number of experimental papers between 1880 and 1893 showed Dobbin's skill as an organic chemist, and his text-book "Salts and their Reactions", written in collaboration first with Dr. Hugh Marshall and later with Dr. J. E. Mackenzie, has been in favour for nearly fifty years. But the historical development of chemistry became his main study, and in 1899 he organized the five non-professorial members of the teaching staff of the chemistry department in the University of Edinburgh into the Alembic Club, an unassuming body which was destined to play a useful part in bringing important chemical communications within the reach of interested readers. The twenty-one "Alembic Club Reprints" now available in booklet form reproduce the classical investigations of the greatest chemists of the past three centuries. Many of these reprints were edited or translated by Dr. Dobbin himself.

His translation of Ladenburg's "Lectures on the History of the Development of Chemistry since the Time of Lavoisier" was published in 1900, and his translation from Swedish and German originals of "The Collected Papers of Carl Wilhelm Scheele" appeared in 1931. These were his two major works; minor contributions elucidating points of dubiety or matters of controversy in chemical history flowed from his pen continually.

Dr. Dobbin was an active member of many scientific societies. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1881, and his seventy-one years of membership probably constituted a record. He served on the Council of the Society during 1904–7 and during 1913–16, was curator from 1934 until 1939, and vice-president during 1939–42. He was also the *doyen* of the Society of Chemical Industry.

One of the most modest of men, and one of the most lovable.   JAMES KENDALL

NEWS and VIEWS

Theoretical Physics at King's College, London : Prof. H. C. Longuet-Higgins

THE appointment of Dr. H. C. Longuet-Higgins to the chair of theoretical physics at King's College, University of London, has recently been announced. Prof. Longuet-Higgins, who is not yet thirty years of age, is one of the youngest professors in Britain. The present appointment is particularly interesting as he follows Prof. C. A. Coulson (see *Nature*, 168, 236 (1951) and 159, 632 (1947)), under whom he studied for his D.Phil. at Oxford. Two years after graduating in chemistry at Oxford with first-class honours, he was elected to a fellowship at Balliol. This was followed after two or three more years by a period with Prof. R. S. Mulliken at Chicago. Prof. Longuet-Higgins has been recently in the University of Manchester, where he has been successively lecturer and reader in theoretical chemistry. Prof. Longuet-Higgins's interests are wide. He has made notable contributions to the study of aromatic and conjugated molecules, both as regards their structure and reactivity. While still an undergraduate, together with Mr. R. P. Bell, he helped to revive and develop a bridge model for the boron hydrides and other electron-deficient molecules. He has recently discussed the thermodynamic properties of liquid mixtures and has applied the methods of group theory to molecular vibrations. Prof. Longuet-Higgins is unmarried; he is a keen mountaineer and an accomplished musician, both in conducting and in playing. He will be warmly welcomed in London.

Mathematics at Manchester : Prof. K. Mahler, F.R.S.

DR. KURT MAHLER has been awarded the status of professor of mathematical analysis in the University of Manchester, a mark of recognition of his mathematical distinction that will be welcomed by his many friends and pupils. Dr. Mahler began his mathematical studies in Frankfurt under Prof. C. L. Siegel and, except for some early work on functions of a complex variable, has devoted himself entirely to one aspect or another of the theory of numbers. His first main interest was in the theory of transcendental numbers, and particularly in the closeness with which they can be approximated by rationals with a given denominator. This work led him to consider the extension of the theory of transcendental numbers to the p-adic number-field, and he established a number of important theorems, culminating in his generalization of the Thue–Siegel theorem, on one hand, and his theory of 'pseudo-valuations' on the other. Soon after joining Prof. L. J. Mordell's staff in Manchester, he turned his attention to the geometry of numbers. Taking as his starting-point Mordell's theory of lattice points in non-convex domains, he has in the past ten years published a series of papers in which Minkowski's methods are used for studying the lattice-points of 'star-domains' in two and more