OBITUARIES

Dr. S. Williams

THE death of Dr. Samuel Williams on April 5 at the age of sixty-seven, following a short illness, came only six months after he had left the staff of the Department of Botany, University of Glasgow, for though his official retirement was in 1962 (*Nature*, 194, 728; 1962) he agreed to continue for two further years in view of other changes of staff. He had served for forty-one years as lecturer and senior lecturer in the Department, and for most of this period he played a prominent and very effective part in teaching at all levels and in administration.

Williams attended the University of Manchester, where he gained the bachelor's degree with first-class honours in botany in 1920, and there came under the influence of W. H. Lang and R. S. Adamson. After research leading to the M.Sc. degree, Williams was made assistant lecturer in the Manchester Department in 1921. His appointment in 1923 to Glasgow, where botany was under the aegis of F. O. Bower, was one of a number of exchanges which have occurred between the two Departments. Williams was a most competent morphologist, and was the author of some twenty papers, mostly relating to the morphology and anatomy of ferns and other Pteridophytes. On the basis of these investigations he was awarded the Ph.D. degree by the University of Glasgow and the D.Sc. by Manchester. Among other high qualities his papers are distinguished by excellent line-drawings and photographs—Williams was expert in many branches of photography. He took justifiable pride in his erudite chapter on the experimental morphology of the pteridophytes in Verdoorn's *Manual of Pteridology* (1938), while the investigations which gave him most pleasure included that on the control by auxins of the behaviour of the anglemeristem in *Selaginella* (1937)—work which yielded some of the first evidence of hormone action in the Pteridophyta—and also his very competent study of the first material of the saprophytic liverwort *Cryptothallus mirabilis* to be found in Britain (1950). His excellence as a morphologist is perhaps best illustrated by his paper describing the extremely complex structure of *Isoetes australis* (1943). Williams's first publication (1920, with T. Eden) actually dealt with the ecology of the sand dunes of Flanders, and was based on first-hand observations made towards the end of the First World War, when he served with the Royal Naval Air Service. This interest in ecology remained, and I have pleasant memories of my introduction to the botany of the Lake District at the expert hands of Dr. and Mrs. Williams.

During his earlier years in Glasgow, Williams did valuable work with extra-mural classes, and later assisted for many years in the work of the Scottish Universities Entrance Board, while for a time he was a secretary of Section K (Botany) of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. He devoted much time to collaborating in the preparation of the fourth edition of Brimble's *Intermediate Botany*, and to drafting the morphological sections of *Practical Botany*. He had begun work on a general text-book on plant morphology and planned to complete it during his retirement. That Williams, despite his many excellent qualities and good standing in his subject, did not gain appointment to a senior position elsewhere is doubtless to be attributed in the main to the circumstance that in the period critical for him plant morphology was awaiting new techniques and was a relatively unpopular discipline.

Williams, who was most happily married (to another Manchester botanist), is survived by his widow and a son.

He will be remembered with affection by those who knew him for his sincerity and modesty, his unfailing kindness and generosity.
G. BOND

AFTER graduating from University, it was my good fortune to be appointed lecturer in plant physiology in the University of Glasgow. I arrived there, rather shy and green (a Sassenach up in Scotland), to join an excellent staff under Prof. Montague Drummond ("Montie") (*Nature*, 205, 1262; 1965). The great F. O. Bower had just retired from the chair.

Claude Wardlaw (now professor of botany in the University of Manchester) and F. W. Sansome (now professor of botany in the Ahmadu Bello University, Northern Nigeria) were then my young colleagues. There were others also, such as Dr. Isobel Case, who after forty-one years service is about to retire.

But "Sammy" Williams had been there before all the rest of us, and, with his cunning sense of humour, looked after us. In an intangible way, "Sammy" contributed to the progress of science in general and botany in particular, by guiding us all—he was just that bit older and certainly wiser.
L. J. F. BRIMBLE

Prof. P. S. Hench

PROF. PHILIP SHOWALTER HENCH, a member of the staff of the Mayo Clinic during 1923–57, well known for his work on arthritis, and pioneer in the clinical use of cortisone and joint winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine in 1950 for his work with that hormone, died at Saint Ann's Bay, Jamaica, on March 30.

Dr. Hench was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on February 28, 1896, the son of Jacob Bixler Hench and Clara John Showalter Hench. His father, Dr. J. B. Hench, was a classics scholar, a well-known preparatory-school teacher and an educational leader in western Pennsylvania.

Dr. Hench received his preparatory-school education at the Shadyside Academy and at the University School, both of Pittsburgh. He was granted the degree of bachelor of arts from Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania, in 1916, and the degree of doctor of medicine from the University of Pittsburgh in 1920. After a year's internship at Saint Francis Hospital in Pittsburgh he became, in October 1921, a fellow in medicine in the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Minnesota. In 1923 he became a first assistant and a member of the staff of the Mayo Clinic. He was appointed an associate in 1925, and in 1926 became a consultant in the Division of Medicine and head of the new Section on Rheumatic Diseases of the Mayo Clinic. In 1953 he became a senior consultant of the Mayo Clinic, and he retired from the Mayo Clinic and Mayo Graduate School of Medicine on July 1, 1957.

Dr. Hench studied abroad during October 1928–May 1929, being chiefly with Dr. Ludwig Aschoff at the University of Friesburg, Germany, and with Friedrich Von Müller at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich.

In the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, University of Minnesota, at Rochester, Dr. Hench was instructor during 1928–32, assistant professor during 1932–35 and associate professor during 1935–47. From 1947 until 1957 he was a full professor of medicine in the school.

For many years Dr. Hench was one of the leaders in the study of rheumatism in the United States, being one