

two small works, shows something of the same defect, the skies containing a mosaic of colours; but, viewed at a distance, these blend, and the effect becomes much improved, particularly in the evening sky of 440. "The Ever Blue Pool" (276) is well named. The reflections of yellow sand dunes and of the curious red scrub growing upon them alike appear in its waters to be blue. Sand dunes are shown in several pictures, in most cases without much success, but a notable exception is found in "The Bay of Aberdovey" (309, Leader). In "Third Year Pollards" (269) Mr. Bertram Priestman has missed an opportunity of indicating the really remarkably rapid growth which occurs in the first year after a pollard willow has been cut. The trees in the picture show no great

growth for three years, and have a somewhat hard and unnatural look.

It is not to be expected that men of science will be numerous represented among the portraits in the Academy when there is so wide a choice open among civic authorities, well-known soldiers, and other men high in public esteem. Scientific visitors may this year take pleasure in noting that two fellows of the Royal Society are included amongst the portraits—that veteran man of science and professor of engineering, Dr. Unwin (242), and Sir Napier Shaw (348). Meteorologists may feel proud that their science is represented by the president of the International Meteorological Committee, than whom assuredly no better representative could be found. J. S. D.

### Obituary.

MR. BERTRAM BLOUNT.

ON April 9 chemistry suffered a loss in the death of Mr. Bertram Blount at the comparatively early age of fifty-four. Never robust, his health had been poor for the past few years; he appeared to be exhausted by his successful struggle in 1915 to bring cotton within the list of contraband goods; for, wonderful as it may seem, it was no light task to convince the Government of the necessity for the step, even with such weighty aid as that of Sir William Ramsay. But of nervous energy Blount had a remarkable store; his staying-power was the admiration of those who knew him as an early cyclist, and later as a pioneer automobilist.

After a few years at King's College School, Blount entered the chemical laboratory of the college, where the foundation of his skill as an analyst was laid by the then professor, C. L. Bloxam. At the age of nineteen he accepted service as an assistant to W. H. Stanger, a consulting engineer to the Crown Agents for the Colonies. His talent did not allow him to remain a subordinate for long; Stanger's practice soon developed to include that of consulting chemist, with Blount as partner. On Stanger's death a few years later Blount continued practice on his own account,

and rapidly became a prosperous consultant, the chemistry of cement being his chief subject. His quickness in grasping the meaning of a problem and his undaunted perseverance in attacking it fitted him to be a researcher. His clients' interests, however, left him little time for investigation, so that his contributions to purely scientific literature are limited to a few papers on cement and on minor analytical problems; recently, in conjunction with J. H. Sequeira, he investigated the origin of the colour of Blue John.

Blount was an excellent writer and talker, his style being clear and incisive in both cases. His more permanent writings are "Chemistry for Engineers and Manufacturers," in conjunction with A. G. Bloxam; a "Practical Electrochemistry"; and a recent monograph on "Cement," in conjunction with W. H. Woodcock and H. J. Gillett. He also contributed the articles on cement in the "Encyclopædia Britannica" and in Thorpe's "Dictionary of Applied Chemistry."

WE regret to record the death, on April 21, at seventy-nine years of age, of DR. E. J. MILLS, F.R.S., emeritus professor of technical chemistry in the Royal Technical College, Glasgow.

### Notes.

THE observatory founded in 1913 by Sir Norman Lockyer and Lt.-Col. F. K. McClean on Salcombe Hill, above Sidmouth, is henceforth to be called "The Norman Lockyer Observatory." It will thus form a memorial to the scientific pioneer who was described by Dr. Deslandres, past-president of the Paris Academy of Sciences, in our columns as "one of the greatest astronomers of all time." It is proposed to render the memorial more complete by placing in the observatory a portrait of Sir Norman Lockyer, in the shape of a medallion, to be executed by Sir Hamo Thornycroft, R.A. As there are, no doubt, many persons who will value the opportunity of joining in this tribute, the council of the Observatory Corporation has

NO. 2688, VOL. 107]

decided not to restrict to a few friends participation in defraying the cost of the medallion, but to invite contributions of any amount from all who may wish to express appreciation of Sir Norman's astronomical work. Names of donors will be recorded in a suitable manner in the observatory. Contributions towards the cost of the medallion should be sent to the hon. secretary of the Observatory Corporation, Capt. W. N. McClean, 1 Onslow Gardens, London, S.W.7.

THE Institute of Chemistry has just issued by order of the council a memorandum prepared by the Special Purposes Committee on Fine Chemicals, Laboratory