

## Obituary Notices

Prof. G. A. Schott, F.R.S.

GEORGE ADOLPHUS SCHOTT was born at Bradford on January 25, 1868. From Bradford Grammar School he went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1886 as a pensioner with an open exhibition in science. He took a first in each part of the Natural Sciences Tripos, and it is interesting to notice, in view of his later career, that his first in the second part of the Tripos was in chemistry. He became a College scholar in 1888 and took his bachelor of arts degree in 1890.

In 1893 Schott was appointed lecturer in physics at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. There his interest turned increasingly towards the mathematical side of his subject. During the year 1906-7 he was granted leave of absence to work abroad, chiefly at the University of Bonn, on electromagnetic radiation, the subject which held most of his attention throughout his life. Between 1906 and 1908 he published a series of papers on this subject in the *Philosophical Magazine* and in German periodicals. In 1909 he won the Adam's Prize with an essay based on these papers and entitled "The radiation from electric systems or ions in accelerated motion and the mechanical reactions on their motion which arise from it". His book "Electromagnetic Radiation", published by the Cambridge University Press in 1912, was an extension of this essay, and still remains a standard work on the mathematical aspect of the classical theory.

Schott became lecturer in applied mathematics at Aberystwyth in 1909, and in 1910 was appointed to the chair of applied mathematics there. He was indeed the first holder, and he himself built up the department. Later, in 1923, he became head of both the departments of pure and applied mathematics, and it was only at his own request that the departments were again separated in 1929.

From 1915 or thereabouts until the end of his life, Schott was particularly interested in the new developments of the electromagnetic radiation theory which arose from the relativity and quantum theories. He published a series of papers in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, and elsewhere, on topics in this field. He became a doctor of science of the University of London. In 1922 he was elected to fellowship of the Royal Society.

For a considerable period before his retirement, a large part of Schott's time had been devoted to College business. In 1932 he was appointed vice-principal of the College and for a time in 1933, during the illness of the principal, his duties became very heavy indeed. It was typical of him that even during this period of overstrain, the work of his department was not allowed to suffer in the smallest detail.

Dr. Schott retired from the chair of applied mathematics at Aberystwyth in June 1933, but held office as vice-principal until the end of December of

that year. While still in his full powers he died very suddenly on July 15, 1937.

As a mathematician, Schott was a master of technique, his interests ranging over almost the whole field of applied mathematics and mathematical physics. His best work was done in connexion with the classical theory of electromagnetic radiation. It is noteworthy that he maintained until the last that the classical theory had yet to be proved inadequate. His most recent work is concerned with the rigorous calculation of the field of a rigidly electrified sphere and the resulting reaction on the sphere. In particular, he proved that such a sphere is capable of moving in radiationless orbits, a very significant result from the point of view of atomic structure.

The keynotes of his personal character were sincerity and scrupulous attention to detail. His academic distinction was carried with a simple kindness that coloured with affection the deep respect and admiration of his colleagues and students towards him.

WE regret to record the death of Miss B. Pullen-Burry, which took place on September 21 at Hindhead at the age of seventy-nine years. Miss Pullen-Burry, who was born on February 14, 1858, was for many years a familiar figure at anthropological gatherings. She was a staunch believer in the anthropological method of approach in the study of problems of cultural contacts when that point of view had still to win recognition outside certain not very widely extended circles. It was this aspect which she stressed in her communications to the Anthropological Section of the British Association, dealing with the Negro under British rule and in America, and with the natives of New Britain, and afterwards incorporated in her books "Jamaica As It Is" (1903), "Ethiopia in Exile" (1906), and "In a German Colony" (1909). Miss Pullen-Burry travelled extensively in Europe, the Holy Land, Egypt, India, Japan, Australasia, German New Guinea, the West Indies, the United States and Canada. In 1912, she was the first president of the Union of Women of Geographical Interests, an organization which she had a large share in founding.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Sir Jagadis Chunder Bose, C.S.I., C.I.E., F.R.S., emeritus professor in the Presidency College, Calcutta, and founder and director of the Bose Research Institute, Calcutta, on November 23, aged seventy-eight years.

Prof. C. Gravier, professor of zoology in the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, on November 14, aged seventy-two years.

Prof. Ludwig Plate, formerly professor of zoology and director of the Phyletic Museum, Jena, aged seventy-five years.