

Had it been possible for Greenaway to complete his chemistry training in Germany, as was then the custom, there is evidence that he might have become distinguished in his chosen profession. There is also evidence that had he not devoted his life to chemistry he might have become a distinguished artist. As it was, he was overburdened in his younger days with routine and irksome teaching from which he had to break away. In 1877, he published a paper, with the late R. J. Friswell, on thallos platinumocyanide, and in 1881, while still teaching, he translated and edited, with the late Prof. W. R. Hodgkinson, Wislicenus's "Short Text-book of Organic Chemistry". At a time when he must have been fully occupied with editorial work he edited in 1891 the translation of the fifth edition of Mendeléeff's "Principles of Chemistry"; he also edited with the present writer a volume of the Faraday Lectures for the Chemical Society and he wrote a charming personal account of his friend, Prof. W. H. Perkin, who died in 1929. Greenaway became a fellow of the Chemical Society in 1874 and was elected a vice-president in 1924. He was an original fellow of the Institute of Chemistry (1877).

For the Chemical Society, John Greenaway did outstanding and self-sacrificing work, and to him the Society must always be greatly indebted. He will long be remembered for his personal charm and modesty by many whom he taught to appreciate, as he did so intensely, beautiful things.

CHARLES S. GIBSON.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. S. Alexander, O.M., F.B.A., honorary professor of philosophy in the University of Manchester, on September 13, aged seventy-nine years.

Dr. Charles Carpenter, C.B.E., formerly president of the South Metropolitan Gas Company, on September 7, aged eighty years.

M. de La Baume Pluvinel, member of the Section of Astronomy of the Paris Academy of Sciences, known for his solar researches and for numerous instrumental developments, on July 18, aged seventy-seven years.

Sir Basil Mott, C.B., F.R.S., president in 1924 of the Institution of Civil Engineers, on September 7, aged seventy-eight years.

## News and Views

### Herman Boerhaave (1668-1738)

HERMAN BOERHAAVE, eminent alike as physician, chemist and botanist, was born at Voorhuit, a village near Leyden, on December 31, 1668. He first intended to become a clergyman, like his father, and after studying philosophy, theology and mathematics, qualified as a doctor of philosophy at Leyden in 1690 with a thesis on the distinction between the mind and the body. He then took up medicine, in which he qualified in 1693 with a dissertation on the importance of examining the excreta in disease. In 1702 he was appointed lecturer in the institute of medicine, his inaugural address being devoted to the importance of the study of Hippocrates. In 1709 he was made professor of botany and medicine, and five years later succeeded Bidloo in the chair of practical medicine, becoming in the same year rector of the University of Leyden. In 1718 he became professor of chemistry, on which subject he published several works, the most notable being "Elementa chemiæ" (1724), regarded by Garrison as the best work on chemistry in the eighteenth century. His other principal works are "Institutiones medicæ" (1708) and "Aphorismi de cognoscendis et curandis morbis" (1709). Moreover, in conjunction with Albinus, the greatest contemporary anatomist, he edited the collected works of Vesalius. In addition to Peter the Great, he counted among his pupils such eminent physicians as Haller, Pringle, Cullen, De Haen and van Swieten, the last of whom published a commentary on the Aphorisms. Boerhaave enjoyed a world-wide reputation, and many of his

works were translated into different languages including Turkish and Chinese. His many honours included that of fellowship of the Royal Society and membership of the Academy of Sciences of France. His death took place on September 23, 1738.

### Boerhaave Celebrations

THE Dutch Medical Association, the Leyden Faculty of Medicine and the Society of the History of Natural Sciences of Leyden are organizing a celebration beginning on September 23 to commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of the death of Herman Boerhaave. Visits will be paid to the old St. Cecilia Hospital, where Boerhaave gave clinical lectures, his country house "Poelgeest" near Leyden and the village of Hardewyk on the Zuyder Zee, the seat of the ancient university where Boerhaave presented his inaugural thesis on July 15, 1693. A commemoration volume will be published.

### The Royal Flemish Academ, of Belgium

KING LEOPOLD OF BELGIUM has recently appointed the first thirty members of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium. The Academy comprises three classes: Sciences, Letters (including Political and Moral Sciences) and Fine Arts. A decree creating a Flemish Academy of Medicine may be expected to follow soon. This will form a complete equivalent of the old Académie Royale de Belgique, the official language of which is French. By thus putting both Academies on the same footing, instead of merely organizing a bilingual system within the Académie