

became the first honorary physician in charge of the Skin Department and held this position until his retirement from the Infirmary staff in 1931. The accompanying lectureship in dermatology in the College of Medicine he held from 1914 until 1937.

But as in London, so in Newcastle, Bolam was outstanding in his committee and administrative work. He was an active member of the senate of the University for many years and in 1931 was made pro-vice-chancellor, and was vice-chancellor in 1936-37. He acted as registrar of the College of Medicine in succession to Prof. R. Howden, and in 1934 was elected its president.

During the years following, Bolam's main object was to see the College rehoused on a site facing the Royal Victoria Infirmary, and to this task he applied himself with his customary vigour and enthusiasm.

Following the merging of the College of Medicine and Armstrong College into the present King's College in the University of Durham, Bolam continued as chairman of the Building Board, in which capacity he was able to see the realization of his dreams. In spite of periods of ill-health during the last six months, he was able to receive H.M. King George VI and H.M. the Queen and to conduct them around the finished building on the occasion of the official opening in February of this year.

An obituary of a man of such widespread activity as Sir Robert Bolam must necessarily tend to take the form of a catalogue of his services, in the recital of which the personal character is not given due weight. To those who knew him well, the memory of Bolam will be found not in a monument of brick or stone, not in the records of the minute books of the many committees on which he served or which he directed, but in the personal memory of the man himself. In this, his statesmanship, sincerity and directness of purpose will be remembered, but his never failing courtesy and kindness will above all be abiding to those who may claim to have been honoured by his friendship.

R. B. GREEN.

#### Sir William Butler, Bart.

THE death on April 5 of Sir William Waters Butler, Bart., deprived Birmingham, its neighbourhood and its University, of one of their most generous philanthropists.

Educated at King Edward's School, Birmingham, Sir William entered his father's business, which later became Mitchells and Butlers, Ltd., brewers. Further studies in the sciences were pursued at the evening classes held at the Midland Institute, and he became a fellow of the Chemical Society. To the last he maintained an interest in the technology of his trade, and on more than one occasion told me that the most pleasant times in his routine week were spent in the brewery discussing technical matters on Sunday mornings when the distractions of workaday business activities could be temporarily banished.

The British School of Malting and Brewing at the University of Birmingham, set up by subscription from a number of brewing firms in 1899, was strongly

supported from the first by Sir William's firm. In 1919, he initiated the endowment of the Adrian Brown chair of brewing, and in 1926 personally defrayed the entire cost of the new Department at the Edgbaston site. Without this donation, the erection of the new biology block there would have been virtually impossible. He also made repeated donations to various departments of the University; two of his most recent ones, £10,000 each, were respectively for the endowment of scholarships in science and commerce and for the University Medical School. In addition he had served since 1917 on the Council of the University, and was known to possess wide sympathies in all educational matters, and to be ever ready with business advice and help.

R. H. HOPKINS.

#### Mr. G. E. Blundell

THE National Museum of Wales has lost a good friend by the death of Mr. G. E. Blundell. For many years science master at Wellington College, Blundell retained his interest in scientific matters when he became lord of the manor at Newton Nottage near Porthcawl, paying special attention to chemistry and geology, and eventually to archaeology. He was a keen observer, always ready to bring new discoveries to the notice of those to whom the information was likely to be useful, with the result that although he seldom published the results of his own investigations, he contributed much that was of real value to the work of others.

It was this generous attitude that brought Blundell into contact with the National Museum of Wales. In 1922, when the Museum was preparing to open its doors for the first time, he became a member of the committee concerned with archaeological matters, and in 1926 he was elected to a seat on the Council.

As an example of Blundell's indirect contributions to archaeology we might take the discovery, made in association with his wife (a daughter of the late R. H. Tiddeman of the Geological Survey), of bronze objects and fragments of crucibles with adherent bronze, associated with fragments of iron and slag, pot-boilers and bones, in the sand dunes at Merthyr Mawr in Glamorgan. This proved to be the first Early Iron Age settlement to be found in Wales, and it was afterwards described by (Sir) Cyril Fox in "*Archaeologia Cambrensis*" in 1927.

To geology, Blundell rendered useful service by recording excavations made in the vicinity of his home, and by his interest in the early history of the subject. The latter is understandable since he was related to the descendants of William Buckland, and as a result of it, interesting manuscripts relating to Buckland's work in Wales have been deposited in the National Museum of Wales by Dr. Mervyn H. Gordon, one of the Dean's grandsons.

F. J. N.

WE regret to announce the death of Prof. S. L. Loney, professor of mathematics in the Royal Holloway College (University of London), from 1888 until 1920, on May 16, aged seventy-nine years.