

NEWS AND VIEWS

Prof. T. Slater Price, O.B.E., F.R.S.

THE retirement has been announced at the end of the present academic year of Prof. T. Slater Price from the chair of chemistry at the Heriot-Watt Technical College, Edinburgh. Dr. Slater Price's early work was concerned with the oxidation of iodide by persulphates, with electro-analysis, and with the electrolytic method for the preparation of organic disulphides and diselenides. His interest in the oxyacids of sulphur continued, and he later provided some of the first evidence for the structure of Caro's acid. In 1903 he was appointed head of the Chemistry Department of the Birmingham Municipal Technical College, a position which he held with great success until 1920. There was, however, one interruption to this work at Birmingham; this was caused by his appointment, as Lieut.-Commander, R.N.V.R., to the Naval Experimental Station during 1916-19, where he carried out many valuable investigations on smoke screens, etc., for which he was afterwards given the O.B.E.(Mil.). Returning from this excursion, Dr. Slater Price met the chaos produced by a great influx of demobilized service men to technical classes. His Chemistry Department included pharmacy, so that the number of students to be accommodated was very large. However, order was soon established and the teaching work went on smoothly, though its demands prevented any rapid extension of the researches on complex cobaltamines upon which Slater Price had been engaged for several years.

Nor did Dr. Slater Price take up this work again, for in 1920 he was appointed director of the British Photographic Research Association, where he remained until 1930. The mechanism of light action on photographic materials was very little understood and formed a constant subject of research in his laboratory throughout this period, and by the end of 1930 work on the photoconductivity of silver halides had laid the foundations for much of the modern advance in the theory of the photographic image. The chemistry of the photographic emulsion also was studied, and much work was done on the influence of the chemical environment of the growing crystals of silver halide in a medium of gelatin and water. In spite, however, of the interest of industrial chemistry, the appeal of academic work was very strong, and in 1931 Dr. Slater Price returned to it once more in the post which he has held from that time, giving his energy in great part to the reorganization of his department, one section of which now includes equipment for micro-analysis. He has encouraged research by the members of his staff, one of whom is now studying the properties of chromium-ammines. Dr. Slater Price has also given much service on the councils of various scientific bodies, notably the Institute of Chemistry, the Chemical Society, and the Royal Photographic Society.

James Nevins Hyde (1840-1910)

DR. JAMES NEVINS HYDE, one of the most distinguished American dermatologists, was born at Norwich, Connecticut, on June 21, 1840, the son of a merchant. He received his medical education at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, and qualified in 1869 at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. From that date until his death he practised in Chicago, where he was the principal pioneer in dermatology. His first appointment was that of lecturer in dermatology at the Rush Medical College from 1873 until 1876, when he was made professor of dermatology in the Northwestern University. Three years later he became professor of dermatology, genito-urinary and venereal diseases at Rush Medical College, and from 1902 until 1910 he held the chair of dermatology at the University of Chicago. He was also attending dermatologist to several hospitals in Chicago. His literary output was considerable. In addition to his principal work, "A Practical Treatise on Diseases of the Skin", which first appeared in 1883 and ran through eight editions, he contributed more than a hundred articles to dermatological literature. Hyde enjoyed an international reputation as shown by his membership of the dermatological societies of France, Italy, Berlin and Vienna. He was twice president of the American Dermatological Association and was secretary for America at the Fifth International Dermatological Association held in Berlin in 1904. He died suddenly at the age of seventy on September 6, 1910.

Dr. Waldemar Kernig

DR. WALDEMAR KERNIG, an eminent Russian physician, who died in 1917, was born on June 16, 1840, at Dorpat, where he received his medical education. He qualified in 1864 with a thesis on the regulation of the temperature in man and immediately afterwards became physician to the Obuchow Hospital at St. Petersburg. Subsequent posts held by him were those of physician to a deaf and dumb school from 1873 until 1890 and lecturer in internal medicine in the medical courses for women in the Empress Marie's institutions. He contributed several articles to periodical medical literature on splenic abscesses, subfebrile conditions of considerable duration, subcutaneous injection of Fowler's solution, etc., but he is best known by his name having been attached to a sign indicating meningitis which he described in two articles (*Berlin klin. Woch.*, 21, 829; 1884; and *Z. klin. Med.*, 64, 19; 1907).

M. V. Lomonosov

A LECTURE on Lomonosov (1711-1765), the first Russian man of science, will be given by Prof. J. D. Bernal at the Ambassadors' Hotel, W.C.1, at 7.30 p.m. on June 28. This fisherman's son from Archangel, his