

the foundations of a new college building were laid. Senter had good cause for happiness in the outstanding success of his principalship. Besides guiding the internal affairs of the College, Senter took a prominent part in the larger world of the University. As an active member of the Senate his shrewd judgment was appreciated and his work on committees and boards earned him the respect and affection of his colleagues.

George Senter possessed one of the rarest and most precious of gifts in a man of science or administrator—the gift of lucid exposition. This he turned to good account in his well-known books, "Outlines of Physical Chemistry" and "Text-book of Inorganic Chemistry," which have delighted and helped a generation of chemists. In view of his fine record in administration there may be a tendency to forget his eminence as a man of science. Senter realized at an early date that kinetic investigations would be necessary for the satisfactory elucidation of the problems connected with the phenomenon of the Walden inversion. He carried out a number of pioneer investigations and had he been able to devote himself to this work there seems little doubt that results of great theoretical interest would have emerged. Actually this early work on chemical kinetics in which he was engaged when he became principal of Birkbeck College is now regarded as fundamental, and after some twenty years forms the basis of one of the most rapidly developing branches of physical chemistry.

Although Senter was a bachelor he was not a self-centred man. He had a true and understanding heart associated with a tolerant mind and a happy gift of humour. For relaxation he turned to the peace and joy of his garden and the countryside. In the minds of the hosts of his friends there will ever remain the remembrance of a shrewd and kindly man who had a sincere desire to serve his fellow-men.

W. WARDLAW.

Dr. J. G. Myers

JOHN GOLDING MYERS was born near Rugby in Warwickshire on October 22, 1897. In 1911 his parents moved to New Zealand. There he did brilliantly at school, winning a scholarship to Victoria University College, Wellington. During the War of 1914–18 he came to Europe with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Returning to Wellington he completed his studies and obtained the B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees.

From 1919 until 1924 Myers was employed as entomologist in the Biological Division of the New Zealand Department of Agriculture, where he did excellent work on the cattle tick and other pests. In 1924 he won the coveted honour of an 1851 Exhibition Scholarship for New Zealand and elected to go to Harvard University. There he worked at the entomological laboratory of the Bussey Institution, eventually obtaining the degree of Sc.D. In 1925 Myers came to England to represent the New Zealand Government at the Second Imperial Entomological Conference. Afterwards he went to France at the request of his Government to study the natural enemies of the pear leaf-curling midge. In the following year he was appointed to the staff of the Imperial Institute of Entomology to organize the breeding of parasites of injurious insects for export to the Dominions and Colonies. He did splendid work on the parasites of the blow-fly and of the

timber-infesting wood-wasps, which made possible their export to Australia and New Zealand. Myers next visited Australia to investigate the passage of dried fruit from the vine to the consumer and was successful in tracing the sources of insect infestation. In 1928 he went to Trinidad to study the possibilities of the biological control of sugar cane pests. He travelled all over the West Indies and to Guiana and Surinam in search of parasites, and his report, published by the Empire Marketing Board, is a mine of information not only on insect pests and their parasites but also on the general ecology and agriculture of the countries visited.

Myers' work in the West Indies continued up to 1934, when he joined the staff of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad. Here he undertook a number of private expeditions at the request of various planters, collecting and studying the ecology of insect pests in unknown parts of British Guiana, Venezuela and Brazil.

In 1937 Myers was appointed economic botanist to the Government of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, his task being to survey the economic possibilities of the southernmost province of Equatoria with a view to its future agricultural development. Only preliminary reports of this work are available, but they cover a great variety of subjects and show the usual thoroughness of his approach and the broadness of his vision. It was fated that this task should not be completed, for he was killed in a motor accident near Amadi, Equatoria Province, on February 3.

Apart from his many papers on biological control, and related topics, Myers produced a large number of works on Hemipterous insects which showed him to be a morphologist and systematist of the highest order. Myers' versatility, broad ecological outlook and great experience in many parts of the world made him the most outstanding economic entomologist of his generation. In his death at the early age of forty-four, applied biological science has lost one of its most brilliant investigators. He leaves a widow and two small daughters in British Guiana.

W. E. CHINA.

Sir William Bragg

QU'IL me soit permis d'apporter un hommage français à la mémoire de Sir William Bragg, dont la mort, suivant de près celle de J. J. Thomson, endeuille aujourd'hui la science anglaise.

J'avais appris à connaître et à admirer l'œuvre de Sir William Bragg, il y a de nombreuses années, alors que je faisais mes premières armes de chercheur au laboratoire de Madame Curie. Son livre sur la Radioactivité avait une place d'honneur dans notre bibliothèque, et le volume, très usé, témoignait de l'utilité de l'ouvrage: il était toujours entre les mains de quelque chercheur ou de quelque étudiant.

J'ai eu l'honneur d'être reçu par Sir William Bragg lorsque je parvins en Grande Bretagne après m'être évadé de France, en juin 1940. Je n'oublierai jamais l'amabilité de son accueil, ni les paroles de sympathie, si directes et si profondément senties, qu'il prononça à l'égard de notre malheureux pays.

Je suis sûr d'être l'interprète de tous les hommes de science français, forcés au silence par leur situation, en priant Sir Lawrence Bragg et la Royal Society d'accepter leurs condoléances émuës et le témoignage de leur profond attachement à la mémoire du grand disparu.

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