

Dr. W. E. Thrift

DR. WILLIAM EDWARD THRIFT, provost of Trinity College, Dublin, who died on April 23, was born in 1870, and educated at the High School and at Trinity College, Dublin, where he obtained every distinction in mathematics and experimental physics for which it was possible for him to compete. He crowned his career as a student by obtaining a fellowship in mathematics and experimental science at the early age of twenty-six, and five years later, on the death of FitzGerald, was appointed as his successor in the chair of experimental and natural philosophy. This involved much teaching and administrative work, which was increased by the wideness of his interests, and the many demands for the benefit of his co-operation and advice on the boards of various institutions for the advancement of education and other important and beneficent purposes. In 1902 he was elected to the Science Section of the Council of the Royal Dublin Society, of which he remained a member until his death. He also acted for many years as financial adviser to the Representative Body of the Church of Ireland.

Shortly after his appointment, Prof. Thrift assisted in the editing of the collected works of his great predecessor, George Francis FitzGerald. Then came the task of planning the new physical laboratory which was provided for Trinity College by the munificence of the late Earl of Iveagh, and in 1908 he played a prominent part in making the local arrangements needed for the visit of the British Association to Dublin. A few years later he edited the fourth edition of Preston's "Light", and added a number of sections, bringing that valuable work up to date.

The demands on Prof. Thrift's time, however, became more and more insistent, and his election as one of the representatives of the University of Dublin in Dail Eireann in 1922 (a seat which he retained until

the abolition of university representation in 1937) effectively prevented his further participation in work of a purely scientific nature, apart from the lecturing and teaching duties of his chair. Prof. Thrift became a senior fellow of Trinity College in 1928, vice-provost in 1935, and provost in 1937, a position the onerous duties of which he worthily carried out, even when they were rendered doubly difficult by the failing health which marked his closing years.

Prof. Thrift was an excellent lecturer—especially to senior students—and a sympathetic, though critical, examiner. Although debarred by his many activities from undertaking much serious research work himself, he was always most anxious to encourage and assist in that of his students, and his quick grasp of a subject, combined with his keen critical judgment, were of great help to all who sought his aid in their various problems. He was the kindest and most considerate of men to those who had the good fortune to study or work under him, and has given them good cause to feel that they have lost a friend whose name they will long remember with affection and esteem. H. H. POOLE.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Herbert Fox, professor of comparative pathology in the University of Philadelphia and director of the Laboratory of Comparative Pathology, Zoological Society of Philadelphia, and author of "Disease in Captive Animals and Birds", aged sixty-one.

Dr. Jacob Reighard, emeritus professor of zoology at the University of Michigan, on February 14, aged eighty.

Dr. C. D. Sherborn, associate of the Linnean Society, compiler of the "Index Animalium", on June 21.

Mr. E. J. Wortley, C.M.G., formerly director of agriculture, Trinidad, on April 27.

NEWS and VIEWS

The Right Hon. Lord Hankey, P.C., G.C.B.,
G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.

THE election of Lord Hankey as fellow of the Royal Society under Statute 12 recognizes in a most fitting way his unremitting work to secure the recognition of the part which science and scientific men can play in the successful prosecution of the War. When the Scientific Advisory Committee was set up in April 1940, with the status of a Sub-Committee of the War Cabinet, Lord Hankey was appointed its chairman. He brought to it his unrivalled knowledge not only of the machinery of government but also of the diverse ways in which science was already being called upon by the Service and Supply Departments. But to knowledge there was added a warm personal sympathy with the desire of scientific men to give still more. Unfortunately, the time has not yet come to tell the whole story of the work of the Scientific Advisory Committee or of the Engineering Advisory Committee which was appointed later, also under Lord Hankey's chairmanship, to watch over the fuller utilization of engineering knowledge and ability. Sufficient is known, however, to make it clear that these Committees have more than justified their appointment. Lord Hankey vacated the

chairmanship of the Scientific Advisory Committee and of the Engineering Advisory Committee when he left the Government earlier this year, but he has retained his charge of the Technical Personnel Committee, which continues vigorously to ensure that a sufficient supply of scientifically trained men is available for the continuing demands of the Services and war industries.

New Foreign Members of the Royal Society

THE following have been elected foreign members of the Royal Society: Prof. Alfred N. Richards, professor of pharmacology in the University of Pennsylvania; Prof. L. Ruzicka, professor of organic chemistry in the Federal Technical College, Zurich; Prof. N. I. Vavilov, of Leningrad and Moscow; Prof. I. M. Vinogradov, of Moscow.

Prof. Alfred N. Richards

PROF. ALFRED NEWTON RICHARDS, who is now the vice-president of the University of Pennsylvania, with special responsibility for its important Medical School, has been engaged for a large part of his working life in experimental researches on the method of formation of urine by the kidney, over a wide