

the clue; and in a set of papers developed a partly geometrical, partly analytical, method of surpassing beauty, which finally classified all solutions of Emden's equation and its generalizations. As G. H. Hardy remarked in a debate on the subject at the Royal Astronomical Society, theories of stellar structure may come and go, but Fowler's contributions to the pure mathematics of the subject have a permanent value.

Fowler had become the mainstay of theoretical physics at the Cavendish, and in 1932 he was appointed to the new Plummer chair at Cambridge. Here he found the fullest opportunity for the exercise of his remarkable versatility and power of assimilating new ideas. Anyone in doubt over an unusual argument, anyone in need of encouraging but salty criticism, always turned to Fowler and came away comforted.

In 1938 Fowler was appointed director of the National Physical Laboratory. But an unexpected illness made it undesirable for him to take up the appointment, and he had the unusual experience of being re-elected to his resigned chair. But he could not be persuaded to reduce his activities. During the present War he undertook important liaison work between British and Canadian science, in Canada, and later he did similar work in the United States. He was created a knight in 1942. Unfortunately, his illness returned, and though he threw himself into further work at the Admiralty, it gradually mastered him. He was attending important conferences up to within a few weeks of his death.

Fowler was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1925, and awarded its Royal Medal in 1936. He married Eileen, only daughter of the late Lord Rutherford; she died in 1931. He leaves two sons and two daughters.

Fowler had a forceful, even a masterful personality. As I once put it in a sketch of Fowler for the *Granta*, when Fowler was proctor at Cambridge, he had a short way with any committee he was chairman of, and a short way with the chairman of any committee

he was a member of. He could be outspoken to the point of inducing tears, but his subsequent contrition was so endearing that he never left bitterness. He was a man who, starting his scientific career in a promising but by no means excessively distinguished way, went on maturing throughout his life, and attained a fame which surprised even his earliest admirers, but which was wholly deserved, and wholly earned. Had he lived, Fowler would have become one of the greatest scientific powers in the land. He had a tremendous capacity for personal friendships; to collaborate with him on a scientific paper was to embark on high adventure, and the thrill and 'agony' of working alongside him, when results were being turned out quickly and one was on tip-toes as to what was round the next corner, were things never to be forgotten.

Fowler was big and powerful of frame, and he applied his strength with success to a variety of ball-games. He had claims to distinction as a cricketer, both in batting and bowling; he played an excellent game of both lawn tennis and real tennis; he represented Cambridge at golf and declared (and, we hope, made) many a 'Barnwell no-trumper' on his way home from golf at Mildenhall; he was also a rock-climber.

Fowler was the whole man, of many parts. His life was one of unsparing devotion to high scientific ideals. We cannot over-estimate the loss his untimely death means to Great Britain and to science generally.

E. A. MILNE.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. Selskar M. Gunn, vice-president of the Rockefeller Foundation, and formerly director of the Paris office of the International Health Board of the Foundation, aged sixty-one.

Sir Henry Lyons, F.R.S., formerly director of the Science Museum, London, on August 10, aged seventy-nine.

NEWS and VIEWS

Prof. T. R. Elliott, C.B.E., F.R.S., and the Beit Trust

MANY generations of Beit Memorial research fellows will hear with regret of the retirement of Prof. Elliott from the honorary secretaryship of the Advisory Board to the Beit Memorial Trustees, an appointment he has held since 1930 when he succeeded the late Sir James Kingston Fowler. The Beit Trust, one of the first great benefactions for medical research in Great Britain, has played a very notable part in the training of a number of skilled investigators who have made important contributions in most branches of scientific medicine. From its inception in 1910, the Trust has been particularly fortunate in its first two honorary secretaries to the Advisory Board, both of whom have been distinguished by their enthusiasm for its work, pride in its achievements and vision in its possibilities. The continuity of the generous policy of the Trust, the ease of its adjustment to changing conditions without any lowering of standards or narrowing of aims, have owed much to their work.

Prof. Elliott, a former Beit fellow (1911-12), became a member of the Advisory Board in 1922, and thus has been able to draw upon his own earlier memories in acting as friend and adviser to many of those he has helped to elect to fellowships. During the last fourteen years his intimate knowledge of the working of the Trust has been of the greatest value to the work of his colleagues on the Advisory Board, and of the Trustees to whom he carried their recommendations. Prof. Elliott will take with him the grateful memories of all who have worked with him on the Advisory Board and of many in all parts of the world who, as Beit Memorial fellows, have had his friendly guidance. He hands on a fine tradition to his successor, Dr. A. N. Drury, director of the Lister Institute.

Metallurgy at the National Physical Laboratory: Dr. N. P. Allen

DR. NORMAN P. ALLEN, who has been appointed superintendent of the Department of Metallurgy at the National Physical Laboratory in succession to