

OBITUARIES

Mr. James Young

MR. JAMES YOUNG, lecturer in physics at the University of Birmingham, who died on May 28, 1945, aged forty-seven, was born at Dalferf, Lanarkshire. He was educated at Allan Glen's School, Glasgow, and in 1916 proceeded to the Royal College of Science, South Kensington. After a brilliant academic career, Young joined the physics staff at Birmingham in 1920 and worked with one of his former teachers, Prof. S. W. J. Smith.

At South Kensington, under the influence of the late Prof. A. Fowler, Young's interest in astronomy—an interest dating from early boyhood—was enhanced to such a degree that finally it exercised a dominating influence on his professional life. At Birmingham, he was given charge of the University observatory and the teaching of astronomy. Between the two Wars he devoted himself untiringly to the study of the moon, observing a great many occultations and also examining the lunar craters in great detail. These craters specially attracted him, and from his own observations and from results obtained from other sources, he compiled an exhaustive catalogue of positions and diameters. These data he analysed statistically in order to determine the relation between the diameter and frequency of occurrence. This examination convinced him that the meteoric hypothesis of crater formation was untenable.

In addition to his contributions to astronomy, Young did a great deal of work in collaboration with Prof. Smith on the crystallographic analysis of the meteoric irons. Because of their well-developed structure, these natural iron-nickel alloys lend themselves well to X-ray and microscopic examination and are peculiarly adapted to the study of one of the most fundamental questions of ferrous metallurgy, namely, the precise crystallographic mechanism of the $\gamma \rightarrow \alpha$ transformation and its relation to the Widmanstätten structure. The matter is one of some complexity but Young's geometrical insight enabled him to solve the problem almost completely. He also played a part in proving that the Neumann

bands, so characteristic of many meteoric irons, are mechanical twins in the kamacite. Young left much unpublished work in this field. In particular, he examined in detail the crystallographic relations between the kamacite and the imbedded rods of habbdite.

Despite all these activities, Young never lost sight of the fact that he was a teacher. His simple, direct style was much appreciated by elementary students although, perhaps, he himself preferred more advanced work, especially in subjects with a mathematical bias, such as relativity.

As a man, Young was somewhat aloof and silent; but to those who knew him sufficiently well, he was both charming and helpful. Whenever he intervened in any scientific discussion, his accurate knowledge usually gave him the final word. His last illness was borne with the greatest fortitude, and he continued working in his quiet way until very near the end. We admired him above all for his lasting devotion to astronomy, and those of us who knew him well will often think of him as we pass the Observatory on our way up the hill to the University. He leaves a widow and two daughters.

A. A. DEE.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. C. S. Middlemiss, C.I.E., F.R.S., superintendent of the Geological Survey of India during 1895–1917, on June 11, aged eighty-five.

The Right Hon. Lord Onslow, G.B.E., president during 1936–44 of the Zoological Society of London, on June 9, aged sixty-eight.

Major Charles E. S. Phillips, O.B.E., from 1929 until this year secretary of the Royal Institution, on June 17.

Mr. A. E. Rambaut, formerly of the Colonial Forest Service, Malaya, on June 2.

Miss E. R. Saunders, formerly fellow of Newnham College, Cambridge, on June 6, aged eighty.

Brigadier-General Sir Percy Sykes, K.C.I.E., C.B., C.M.G., well known for his contributions to the geography and knowledge of Persia, on June 11, aged seventy-eight.

NEWS and VIEWS

The King's Birthday Honours List

THE following names of scientific men and others associated with scientific work appear in the King's Birthday Honours List:

G.C.M.G.: Sir Frank Stockdale, development adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, late comptroller of development and welfare, West Indies.

K.B.E.: The Hon. Sir Herbert Angus Parsons, senior puisne judge, Supreme Court, and vice-chancellor of the University of Adelaide.

Knights: Mr. R. G. Allan, commissioner of agriculture, Baroda State; Dr. H. H. E. Craster, Bodley's librarian; Prof. C. E. Inglis, lately professor of mechanical sciences in the University of Cambridge; Mr. W. J. Jenkins, director of agriculture, Bombay.

C.M.G.: Prof. A. V. Bernard, late chief Government medical officer, Malta; Mr. L. Nicholls, director of the Bacteriological Institute, Ceylon; Dr. B. S. Platt, director of the Human Nutrition Research Unit, Medical Research Council.

C.I.E.: Mr. J. C. M. Gardner, forest entomologist, Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun; Lieut.-Colonel Kombar Ramaswami Krishnaswami Iyengar, director, Pasteur Institute of Southern India, Coonoor; Capt. (E) W. J. Lifton, chief surveyor, India.

C.B.E.: Mr. F. M. Birks, chief engineer, Gas Light and Coke Co.; Capt F. Burnett, commissioner of lands, Jamaica; Colonel H. W. R. Chandler, director of supplies, Gold Coast; Mr. S. O. Chivers, honorary technical adviser to the Ministry of Food on fruit and vegetable products; Mr. B. Hart, consultant adviser in psychiatry, Ministry of Health; Dr. J. W. McDavid, managing delegate director, Explosives Division, I.C.I. (Explosives), Ltd.; Mr. W. D. MacGregor, conservator of forests, Sierra Leone; Mr. D. M. Matheson, secretary of the National Trust; Mr. H. C. Smith, chief conservator of forests, Burma; Mr. B. R. Wood, conservator of forests, British Guiana.