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Prof. A. W. Stewart

THE many friends of Prof. A. W. Stewart learned, with regret, of his retirement in 1944 from the chair of chemistry at Queen's University, Belfast, which he had held for twenty-five years. Educated at the University of Glasgow, the University of Marburg and University College, London, he in turn held the lectureship in organic chemistry at Belfast and the lectureship in physical chemistry and radioactivity at Glasgow, and in 1919 succeeded the late Prof. Letts as professor of chemistry at Belfast. Stewart did much to create the school from which many of his students at Belfast went to take up important

positions at home and abroad. Possessed of a fertile imagination, Stewart foresaw the dangers of early specialization, and was unceasing in his labours to provide a sound and fundamental training in all aspects of modern chemistry. Thus equipped, his students found themselves ready to undertake posts of responsibility in many spheres of academic and industrial chemistry. Stewart was catholic in his interests and was ever ready to give the benefit of his counsel and experience to the young research workers. Stimulated by his close association with Ramsay and Collie, he developed a keen interest in the application of physical chemistry to the elucidation of the structure and properties of organic compounds, and his work upon Tesla-luminescence spectra was especially noteworthy. By employing a fresh method of excitation, Stewart and his co-workers obtained a series of spectra, each of which is characteristic of the compound which emits it. Thus a new constitutional property was added to those previously known and a new field in spectroscopy was developed. His many books, notably his series on "Recent Advances"—which have now reached many editions—are testimony to his love of investigation and to his interest in the welfare of the undergraduate. It is of interest to note that Stewart suggested that elements which have identical atomic weights but differ in chemical properties should be named 'isobars'. He found pleasure in more recent years in detective fiction and, using the *nom de plume* of J. J. Connington, he has given pleasure to many all over the world. In spite of physical disabilities, Alfred W. Stewart never spared himself in the many interests of teaching, research and writing, and has won the admiration and sympathy of all.

Since February 23 of this year the "Letters to the Editors" of *Nature* have been printed in very small type. As was explained when the change was made, no other course was possible by which to accommodate the great number of "Letters" awaiting publication. However, it was never intended as more than a temporary measure, and it seems to have achieved its purpose in that arrears have been overtaken and it has become possible to publish communications more promptly. The number of "Letters" submitted by correspondents is still large, but the recent increased allowance of paper has made it possible to allocate additional space to this part of the journal without encroaching on the more general parts. It has therefore been decided to revert to the larger type for printing communications submitted as "Letters to the Editors". The additional space now available, however, will do no more than allow for the increase in size of type. It is, therefore, of the greatest importance that correspondents should restrict their communications to the minimum length consistent with clearness and accuracy; in the interests of prompt publication it is also desirable that manuscript or typescript submitted should be carefully read in order to avoid the need for extensive corrections on printed proofs.

Following the official suggestion that the additional allowance of paper might be used to increase both the size of the journal and also its circulation, more copies of *Nature* are being printed to meet the considerably increased demand from many parts of the world. Readers may like to know that, for the time being, it will be possible for the publishers to accept subscription orders once more.

Chemistry at University College, Hull: Prof. Brynmor Jones

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DR. BRYNMOR JONES has been appointed to the chair of chemistry in University College, Hull. Dr. Jones took his B.Sc. degree with first-class honours in chemistry and his Ph.D. degree at Bangor. After a period of three years with the late Prof. T. M. Lowry at Cambridge, Dr. Jones went to Sheffield as assistant lecturer in chemistry in 1931 and was promoted lecturer and senior lecturer in 1934 and 1939 respectively. His researches have been mainly concerned with the kinetics of the halogenation of aromatic compounds; elegant and extensive developments from the earlier experiments of the late Prof. K. J. P. Orton and his school at Bangor

have been made, and the accurate velocity measurements have played an important part in the development of organic chemical theory. Dr. Jones has also published original work on a variety of topics including the rotary dispersion of organic compounds, liquid crystals, and aromatic substitution; during the War he carried out researches on behalf of the Ministry of Supply (Chemical Defence Research Department). As local representative at Sheffield and as a member of Council of the Chemical Society, Dr. Jones has given devoted services in the interests of chemistry in the Sheffield area. In addition, he has played an active part in numerous University activities, and recently he has compiled a valuable and interesting account of the contributions made by the University of Sheffield towards the war effort.

Botany at the University of Durham:

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Prof. Meirion Thomas

MR. MEIRION THOMAS, who has just succeeded to the chair of botany, King's College, University of Durham (Newcastle upon Tyne), went directly from Cambridge to what was then Armstrong College, to a post as lecturer on botany. This post he held until 1944 when he was promoted to a readership in plant physiology in the same Department. Throughout his stay at King's College, he has conducted with marked vigour and success various researches on the catabolic processes in plants. Most of his results are embodied in a series of papers with the general title "Studies in Zymasis"; in general, these proceeded from the pen of Prof. Thomas himself, but occasionally they were written in collaboration with research students. In