ST. SALVATOR'S COLLEGE, ST. ANDREWS: QUINCENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

By PROF. JOHN READ, F.R.S.

IN 1911, St. Andrews, the oldest Scottish university, celebrated the quincentenary of its foundation in 1411 by Henry Wardlaw, Bishop of St. Andrews. This ancient seat of learning, so rich in history and tradition, has now paid a similar tribute of remembrance to its premier College of St. Salvator, founded and endowed as a residential college by Bishop James Kennedy in 1450. The proceedings opened on September 20 with a commemorative service in the collegiate church of St. Salvator, graced by the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and attended by members of the St. Andrews and Dundee Colleges and School of Medicine of the University, and by leading representatives of State, Church and Law in Scotland, together with academic delegates from many universities, colleges and other learned corporations. At the close of the service of thanksgiving the Queen unveiled a window and shrine in memory of members of the University who fell in the Second World War.

The sequence of events will live long in the memory of all those who were privileged to take part in them. Academic pageantry, gay heraldic shields and flags, bright autumn sunshine, sparkling sea, invigorating air, historic buildings: all helped in the creation of a cavalcade of picturesque scenes truly characteristic of Andrew Lang's "haunted town by the Northern Sea". From the age-old chapel of Bishop Kennedy the company walked in procession along North Street to St. Salvator's Hall, one of the University's most modern and handsome buildings. Here, a group of scarlet-gowned students, mounting a platform at the entrance to the beautiful dining-room, sang in unison the haunting air and words of the Latin grace of the College. The Queen, wearing the scarlet LL.D. gown and black velvet cap of St. Andrews, proposed in gracious terms the toast of the ancient foundation of St. Salvator. "This College," said Her Majesty, "has endured many trials during the past five centuries... for these escapes we must be grateful, remembering that it is easier to destroy than to build up... the university system of Scotland has undergone many changes in the past 150 years, but the individuality of St. Andrews as a collegiate university remains unaltered, and our societies of masters and scholars flourish beyond the dreams of their founders."

In reply, Sir James Irvine, principal of the United College of St. Salvator and St. Leonard, and principal and vice-chancellor of the University of St. Andrews, said that no honour could be more esteemed than that of the Queen's presence among them. The St. Andrews Colleges bore the same relationship to the University as did the family to the State. It was a remarkable thing that the collegiate system which developed naturally in England at the close of the Middle Ages should have been found adaptable to the changed conditions of the twentieth century. Even the great Universities of Harvard and Yale had adopted collegiate sub-division, which seemed to be the only safeguard against educational mass-production, and the only sure way to preserve the master-disciple relationship in higher learning.

In the afternoon the Duke of Hamilton, chancellor of the University, presided in the Younger Graduation Hall over a large audience, honoured again by the presence of the Queen. In a sparkling commemorative oration, the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres traced the origin and growth of the University and of the College of St. Salvator, and referred to some of the outstanding teachers and students, such as John Napier and James Gregory, whose names live in the records of the College. "In the brave company of St. Salvator's men of action," he said, "we watch young Montrose riding to his matriculation. We find in his rooms his Seneca and Xenophon, his cross-bow inlaid with mother-of-pearl, and his golf clubs. We see him hunting, playing tennis, competing for the silver arrow with his friends Dalkeith, Elcho, Sutherland, Lorne, and passing on to his strange destiny." Applause greeted his reference to "the famous carbohydrate research school of St. Andrews" and to "Sir James Colquhoun Irvine, F.R.S., thirty-fourth successor in direct descent of Master John Almare", who in presiding "over the destinies of our University adds lustre to a great inheritance and will hand to posterity a tradition which he has so much enriched".

Honorary degrees were conferred at this ceremony upon Dr. James Craigie, Mrs. Annie Cameron or Dunlop, Sir W. S. Duke-Elder, Prof. Louis Landré (University of Paris), Prof. J. D. Mackie (University of Glasgow), Mr. S. C. Roberts (Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge), Sir J. T. Sheppard (Provost of King's College, Cambridge), Mr. A. H. Smith (Warden of New College, Oxford), and the Rev. W. E. K. Rankine (Minister of St. Andrews).

On the following day, the first of the Dow Lectures, recently founded by Prof. D. R. Dow to encourage students to gain some knowledge of the rich historical background of the University of St. Andrews, was delivered to a large audience, including delegates and guests, in the Hall of the United College. In this lecture, entitled "The University of St. Andrews in Transition, 1895-1950", Sir James Irvine reviewed the critical period in the history of the University falling within his own experience as student, teacher and administrator. At the end of the lecture numerous visiting delegates presented congratulatory addresses, which were placed for safe keeping in an ancient charter box. The delegates represented academic or other learned foundations, mainly of a collegiate nature and often as old as, or even older than, St. Salvator's College. The Colleges of Oxford and Cambridge, as well as Scottish foundations, were richly represented, and other delegates came from Paris, Dublin, Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and from the Royal Society, the British Academy and other distinguished societies. The good feeling existing between Town and Gown in St. Andrews found cordial expression at the ensuing civic luncheon held in Hamilton Hall, to which members of the University and delegates had been invited as guests of the Provost, magistrates and councillors of the Royal Burgh of St. Andrews.

The celebrations were marked further by the striking of a special medal and the issue of two new St. Andrews University Publications: "The Life and Times of James Kennedy, Bishop of St. Andrews", by Dr. Annie I. Dunlop, and "Veterum Laudes", edited by Dr. J. B. Salmond. Of the twelve chapters of the latter book, three are devoted to the philosophers, the men of science, and the medical men who have been associated with St. Salvator's College.

On each evening of the celebrations, for the first time in the history of St. Andrews, certain of its picturesque buildings were floodlit: these included St. Salvator's Chapel, the United College, the romantic ruins of the Castle and Cathedral, Holy Trinity

Church and the West Port. Altogether, the fame that St. Andrews has won as an unsurpassed setting for charming and dignified academic ceremonials has never been better justified than on this memorable occasion in the long history of the University.

OBITUARIES

Field Marshal the Right Hon. J. C. Smuts, O.M., C.H., F.R.S.

IN the course of a long and exceptionally active life, Smuts acquired an outstanding reputation as lawyer, soldier, statesman, writer and philosopher. It would have been surprising if a man so versatile had been lacking in appreciation of those advances in the knowledge and practical application of science which have been perhaps the most distinctive feature of the age in which he lived: nor, indeed, was he. He had, I think, no technical training in scientific matters; but I can testify that he followed developments closely and was keenly alive to the social and economic implications of recent scientific discoveries and to their bearing on international relations.

I had many talks with him during the War about the significance of the work on nuclear energy to which so much time and money were being devoted, and I had the opportunity in that connexion of introducing him to Prof. Niels Bohr, whose distinguished record was already familiar to him and of whom he had become an ardent admirer. Thereafter they had many discussions together in my presence. Smuts was thrilled by the possible economic significance of the discovery of vast quantities of low-grade uranium ore in the gold-bearing formations of the Rand. In quite another connexion I found that he had been following with the liveliest interest the recent spectacular discoveries demonstrating the South African origin of the earliest known forms of prehistoric man.

It is, however, in the argument by which Smuts developed the philosophical conception to which he applied the term 'holism' that one finds the clearest evidence of his extensive knowledge and understanding of the course of recent scientific researches. In successive chapters he sets out in non-technical language the basic theories of atomic structure, relativity, the doctrine of the space-time continuum, quantum theory, cell structure, Mendelism and much else. All this collated information serves to sustain his first main contention that the chief gaps in human knowledge are those which separate the phenomena of matter, life and mind, and leads up to, without establishing, his suggestion that in the grand design of the universe there must be an essential unity. From this, two broad conclusions emerge. The mysteries of life and mind may perhaps, when the key has been discovered, be unravelled in the same way as the mysteries of matter; and, while humanity may pass through a "series of vast secular crises", and may be passing through such a period now, all will eventually develop according to the master plan of the Creator. Incidentally, in the absence of knowledge of that master plan, mere human planning will be largely vain, as Smuts more than hinted in his inaugural speech as Chancellor of the University of Cambridge. His faith was ardent, and such was its basis.

In all discussions, military, political or philosophical, the serenity of the man's mind was remarkable. It is, indeed, a tragedy that at this juncture the world should be deprived of his wise, kindly and courageous counsel.

JOHN ANDERSON

Prof. H. Gordon Jackson

BIRKBECK COLLEGE, the University of London and zoological circles have suffered a sad loss by the recent death in a road accident of Harold Gordon Jackson, master of the College and professor emeritus of zoology in the University. Born in Sussex in 1888, he passed his early days in Liverpool, attending Merchant Taylors' School and the University of Liverpool. When qualified, he was appointed research assistant to Sir William Herdman, and spent much time at the Marine Laboratory, Port Erin, and at sea on Herdman's yacht, so acquiring a fondness for marine biology and Crustacea which characterized his later zoological work. In 1913 he was appointed to a lectureship at the University of Birmingham; but the tenure of this was interrupted by service with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment during the First World War.

A long association with the University of London was begun in 1921, when Jackson was appointed reader and head of the Zoology Department at Birkbeck College, newly admitted by the Senate as a school of the University. From that date he played an outstanding part in the development of the Department of Zoology and of the College itself, so that in 1941, when an acting master was required, he was the obvious choice; on Sir John Maud's resignation in 1943, he was persuaded—much against his will, for it meant a cessation of zoological work—to accept the mastership. Started reluctantly, as it was, and at a time when war dangers made the very physical existence of the College a continuous hazard, his period of mastership was an immense personal success. The University pressed the excellent administrator that he proved to be into service in many capacities, so that at the time of his death Prof. Jackson was deputy vice-chancellor, chairman of the Academic Council and a governor of four of its schools. Other bodies, too, gladly took advantage of his skill, and he was, at one time or another, on the Council of the Association of British Zoologists, the Council for the Promotion of Field Studies, the Freshwater Biological Association and the Marine Biological Association.

Prof. Jackson's scientific work was almost entirely concerned with Crustacea, in later years predominantly with the systematics of land isopods, on which he published many important papers. But zoology was only one of many things in which he was deeply interested: music, architecture and literature all occupied his attention, and he could talk as understandingly to his Faculty of Arts as to his Faculty of Science. The main appeal of these (another link with