

Technical College, Glasgow, and was in the service of the College until he retired in 1936. His success in this chair was such that first the Department of Applied Mechanics and later the Department of Civil Engineering were merged with his Department into a single Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics.

Prof. Mellanby was one of the first to realize the importance of experimental work in engineering courses, and, soon after his appointment to the Royal Technical College, he established a heat engines laboratory, outstanding at that time for its size, range and standard of equipment. In those days technical colleges suffered severely from financial and staff limitations; but Mellanby saw that, without adequate experimental facilities, the highest levels of teaching and research would never be reached. His own work lay mainly in the field of steam and internal combustion engines. Following on his early work on reciprocating engines he took up an intensive study of the flow of steam through nozzles, and was the author of many papers, some of which were in collaboration with Dr. Wm. Kerr, who later succeeded him in the chair. He took an important part in the work of the Marine Oil Engine Trials' Committee, a joint committee of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and the Institution of Naval Architects, which carried out a series of authoritative trials on marine oil engines of different types. His services were widely sought as a consultant, and special reference was made to this when the University of Glasgow conferred the LL.D. degree upon him in 1936. He served as a member of Council of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, and took an active part in the operation of the national certificate scheme for engineering students in Scotland. He was a firm believer in academic institutions maintaining close contact with the world of practice and, at an early stage, fostered the establishment of sponsored research projects for industry.

Intellectually a man of science and professionally an engineer, Prof. Mellanby had the sure instinct of the former for the fundamental factors in a complex problem, and the sound judgment of the latter on all practical issues. He deprecated narrow specialization, whether in courses of study, staff training, experimental method or technical authorship, holding that range was essential to quality of judgment. He made many contributions to technical literature, all of which kept in proper balance and perspective the fundamental and practical issues. He was deeply concerned with the welfare of his students and, long after they had left the College, he followed their careers with interest, always willing to give advice in the solution of problems or a helping hand towards further advancement. Few professors had more sympathy with the struggling part-time student, and nothing gave him greater pleasure than to pick out the really talented from this group and assist them to transfer to full-time courses.

Throughout the long period of his retirement, his activity of mind and body remained unimpaired almost up to the last, and his interest in matters educational and practical was unabated. In him human, social and professional qualities were not only fine but also finely balanced, and they were exercised with a quiet dignity and a true sense of duty and service. He will be very much missed in engineering and academic circles in Glasgow and the west of Scotland, and indeed over a much wider area.

DAVID S. ANDERSON

### Prof. Rikiti Sekiguti

PROF. RIKITI SEKIGUTI, formerly director of the Tokyo Astronomical Observatory, Mitaka, near Tokyo, died suddenly from heart failure on August 10 at Kamakura.

Sekiguti graduated at the University of Tokyo in 1907, taking astronomy as his subject. He served in meteorological observatories—at a weather station in Korea, at the Marine Meteorological Observatory at Kobe, and for a time as the head of the Solar Section of the Central Meteorological Observatory. Meanwhile he was sent to Europe for study, and worked at Cambridge with the late Prof. H. F. Newall for about a year. In 1936 he was made a professor of astrophysics in the University of Tokyo and the director of the Tokyo Astronomical Observatory. He taught astrophysics to students of astronomy at the University for more than ten years until his retirement at the age of sixty in 1946. At one time he served in the Government as the head of the Special Education Bureau of the Ministry of Education, and took several important steps for the promotion of scientific research.

Sekiguti's main scientific work was devoted to meteorology and oceanography. He developed solar meteorology by applying Margules's theory to the solar atmosphere. He took part in the solar eclipse of 1936, using a small spectrograph of his own design, and announced the recognition of several new spectral lines.

Sekiguti was a good writer. He published several books in Japanese, "The Sun", "Astrophysics", "Introduction to Astronomy", etc. He was an enthusiastic and hard worker in any subject he took up. The Tokyo Observatory was damaged towards the end of the Second World War, and since then his health had declined. His daughter is married to Dr. Shinichiro Tomonaga, a well-known nuclear physicist.

Y. HAGIHARA

### Dr. S. Hill

DR. SYDNEY HILL, who died as a result of a street accident on November 27, in his twenty-eighth year, was educated at Holt High School, Liverpool, and proceeded to the University of Liverpool, where he graduated B.Sc.(Hons.) in 1943 and was awarded the Campbell Brown Fellowship. He joined the staff of Peter Spence and Sons, Ltd., in 1943 and was granted leave of absence during 1945-48 to take up the Fellowship, and was awarded a Ph.D. in 1948 for research work in electrochemistry. This work was the subject of several papers published jointly with A. Hickling in the *Transactions of the Faraday Society* and the *Journal of the Electrochemical Society*. Dr. Hill returned to industrial work and at the time of his death was engaged in further electrochemical investigations. His tragic death at an early age closes a career that held great future promise. He was unmarried.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Lord Addison, K.G., P.C., chairman in 1948 of the Medical Research Council, on December 11, aged eighty-two.

Prof. H. S. Raper, C.B.E., F.R.S, dean of the Medical School and professor of chemical physiology in the University of Manchester, on December 12, aged sixty-nine.