

economies could be effected if the blue colour-difference signal were reduced in definition still further. The meeting having exceeded its time limit, the chairman was forced to bring to a conclusion a still lively discussion of an obviously interesting topic.

L. C. JESTY

OBITUARIES

Sir Charles Peers, C.B.E., F.B.A.

SIR CHARLES REED PEERS, born in 1868, will be principally remembered as chief inspector of ancient monuments in the Office of Works. Educated at Charterhouse and King's College, Cambridge, he received his architectural training in the office of Sir T. G. Jackson. Peers's principal interest lay in the historical side of his profession, and he was for many years architectural editor of the "Victoria County Histories". As such he was responsible for the description of a number of important buildings, among which the scholarly and lucid accounts of the cathedrals at Winchester and Peterborough may be noted. With this experience he was an obvious choice when an inspector of ancient monuments in the Office of Works was appointed in 1910. Three years later the Act of 1913 was passed and Peers became chief inspector. The next twenty years, apart from the interruption caused by the First World War, were spent in building up and directing the services required to give effect to the provisions of the Act.

The Act of 1913 empowered the Office of Works to take over buildings, other than churches in use and inhabited houses, in order to ensure their preservation. In carrying out this work, Peers's aim was to preserve what time had left without unnecessary additions or conjectural restoration. The success with which he pursued this conservative objective may be judged both from the numerous abbeys and castles for which the Ministry became responsible during his period of office, and also from the virtual cessation of the bitter controversy between the different schools of preservation, which had vexed the end of the nineteenth and the early years of the twentieth century. While it would be too much to claim that there is no criticism of the work carried out under his guidance, it is essentially a criticism of details; the main tradition which he founded is unchallenged.

Research was not a primary duty of the service established by the Act of 1913, but throughout his tenure of office Peers strove to promote the publication of works that would rouse interest in the buildings under his care. For specialists there were learned articles in scientific journals such as *Archæologia*, the *Antiquaries Journal*, and many others. For the wider public there was the admirable series of official guides to the monuments in charge of the Ministry, a series of which the larger part were from the hand of the chief inspector himself. On retirement from the Civil Service in 1933, his experience was made available to other bodies. He became surveyor of Westminster Abbey, and consulting architect to a number of important buildings such as York Minster and the Cathedral and Castle of Durham.

Peers was associated from the beginning with the work of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments and became a commissioner in 1921. His

connexion with the Society of Antiquaries was long and intimate; he served successively as secretary, director and president, and was continuously an officer from 1908 until 1934. His death has come at a time when the cause in which he spent his working life is firmly established and in good hands, a result largely due to the excellence of the foundations which he laid.

C. A. RALEGH RADFORD

Mr. S. R. Roget

SAMUEL ROMILLY ROGET died on November 17 in the way he would have wished, suddenly and while in full harness. In spite of his seventy-seven years, he was actively engaged, on a full-time basis, in work dear to his heart—the preparation of national and international glossaries on electrical and other technical subjects. His keen interest in this sort of work is, of course, well known; not only did he publish a "Dictionary of Electrical Terms", but also he kept up to date the famous "Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases" which was compiled by his grandfather, Dr. P. M. Roget, and first published in 1852.

Born in London in 1875, the great-grandson of a Genevese Protestant minister who came to England to be the pastor of a London Huguenot Church, Samuel Roget was educated at University College School. He studied mechanical sciences at Cambridge, and after a further year of experimental work at Cambridge went to the Woolwich works of Siemens Brothers. He remained there for seven years and then turned his attention to technical journalism. He was for a time assistant editor of the *Electrician* and afterwards of *Electrical Engineering* (of which he was part-proprietor) from 1906 until 1917, when publication ceased. Between the two World Wars he was a 'free lance' and occasionally contributed to *Nature* and other journals. He also did abstracting work for the Institution of Civil Engineers and the Institution of Electrical Engineers.

As befitted his Huguenot descent, he was a member of the Huguenot Society of London and became its honorary secretary in 1923, a post which he held until he was elected president in 1951.

In 1938 he joined the temporary part-time staff of the British Electrical and Allied Industries Research Association, and his services were placed at the disposal of the British Standards Institution to supervise the revision of the British Standard Glossary of Terms used in Electrical Engineering. In 1941 he joined the staff of the British Standards Institution, and when the revision of the glossary was completed he agreed to remain with the Institution to assist with the preparation of other glossaries and related work.

In his latter years Roget had no hobby other than his work at the British Standards Institution. After a full day at his desk or at a committee meeting, he would often work on at the hotel in which he lived, producing documents which a less enthusiastic person would have dictated next day at the office. In this way he kept up with the work of the thirty or so committees of the Institution of which he acted as secretary, in a way which amazed his colleagues and at a pace which would have done credit to a man of half his age. With his industry he combined a quiet sense of humour and a charm of manner which endeared him to all with whom he came into contact.