he became chairman of the Division of Physics of the National Academy of Sciences and was elected president of the American Physical Society.

He was a great teacher with a marked ability to inspire young men. To this skill was added a natural humanity and directness which brought forth the best in all who came within his influence. He brought these great personal qualities to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which he served as president during 1930–48 and then as chairman of the Corporation. Building on the sound traditions which he found in the schools of engineering and architecture, he added a school of science, greatly developed the graduate school and brought a humane and liberal spirit to its teaching of science, engineering and management.

Compton gave his time and energy freely in government service in capacities too numerous to mention in any detail. He served in the Signal Corps during the First World War and was chairman of the Science Advisory Board (1933–35) appointed by the President of the United States to advise on the better use of science in commerce and government. As a member of the National Defense Research Committee during the Second World War, he was responsible for American radar development. In the early stages of the War he was a member of the Baruch Rubber Survey Committee and at its end was in the Philippines directing the field service of the Office of Scientific Research and Development. His advice was sought after the War on the evaluation of atom bomb tests and other aspects of atomic energy, and he served as chairman of the Research and Development Board of the National Defense Establishment. He was awarded the Medal for Merit in 1946 for his distinguished war-time services.

He served numerous institutions and companies as director or trustee, including the Ford, Rockefeller, Nutrition and Sloan Foundations and the Research Corporation.

Compton's qualities and experience were recognized in Great Britain. He was Pilgrim Trust Lecturer of the Royal Society in 1943, became an honorary Fellow of the Imperial College of Science and Technology in 1949 and received an honorary degree at Cambridge in 1952. He became an honorary C.B.E. in 1948. A few weeks before his recent death he was advising the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee on Technological Education.

Compton received the enthusiastic support of his colleagues in his great achievements at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was in a large measure responsible for the atmosphere of comradeship, vitality and quiet confidence which permeates its staff and student body. His selflessness, his nobility and his true appreciation for others were an inspiration, and his wisdom and stalwart common sense were sure guides in the growth and changes which he fostered. He understood and did his best to achieve the conditions in which scientific work and learning could flourish. At the same time, he was deeply conscious of the responsibility of scientists and technologists to the community.

The loss of this sturdy, generous and inspiring personality will be felt keenly not only by his friends and his Institute, but also by a world grappling with the many problems posed by modern technology.

W. R. Hawthorne

NEWS and VIEWS

Broadcasting Arrangements for the British Association Meeting at Oxford

The presidential address by Dr. E. D. Adrian to the British Association in Oxford on September 7 will be broadcast in the Home Service and on television. Conferment of honorary degrees on this occasion will also be televised, as well as two important talks by eminent speakers on September 2 and 3 and the service from Christchurch Cathedral on the 5th. A summary will be presented in the Home Service on the 8th. Viewers will first see on September 1 the Convocation in the Sheldonian Theatre at which honorary degrees of doctor of science will be conferred by the vice-chancellor, Sir Maurice Bowra, on Sir Ben Lockspeiser, secretary to the Committee of the Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Sir John Lennard-Jones, principal of the University College of North Staffordshire, and Sir Harold Spencer Jones, the Astronomer Royal. The proceedings will be explained by Richard Dimbleby. The producer is David Martin. Following this ceremony will come the speeches of welcome from the Vice-Chancellor and the Mayor, and then the presidential address by Dr. E. D. Adrian. The first part only of the address will be televised; but listeners to the Home Service will hear the whole of it.

On September 2, in a talk on "Physics and the Future", viewers will see Prof. P. M. S. Blackett discussing the growing impact of physics on our present-day life, and the following day Prof. C. D. Darlington talking about "Genetics and Man" and dealing with some recent advances and future work in this field. Both talks will have illustrations and demonstrations; they will be introduced by Peter Parker, who will also report for television on each day's activities during the meeting. The producer is George Noorhof. The service in connexion with the meeting on Sunday morning, September 5, at Christchurch Cathedral, will also be televised. There will be three processions: that of the Vice-Chancellor, proctors and beadles, of the Mayor and Corporation, and of the officers of the British Association. The preacher will be Prof. Leonard Hodgson, regius professor of divinity; the First Lesson will be read by Dr. Adrian, and the Second Lesson by the Dean, the Very Rev. John Lowe, who will conduct the service. At the end of the meeting, in a Home Service programme on September 8 called "Scientists in Session", some of those present will give their views and impressions by recordings made in Oxford the previous week.

New Chief Scientist of Ministry of Fuel and Power: Mr. K. T. Spencer, C.B.E.

Mr. K. T. Spencer has been appointed chief scientist of the Ministry of Fuel and Power in succession to Sir Harold Roxbee Cox. Born in 1898, Mr. Spencer served as an officer in the Royal Engineers in the First World War and afterwards graduated at the University of London. He entered the Scientific Civil Service in 1923 and spent twelve years at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farn-