

students. To hear D. T. Barry talk about the central nervous system, to watch him draw cross-sections of the brain and cord at different levels, to see him doing heart-lung perfusions, demonstrating the electrocardiograph and illustrating the action of curare—in 1917—was to be given a pre-view of the influence of applied physiology on the clinical practice of the nineteen-thirties and forties”.

Outside academic life, Barry had other interests. He played chess and bridge—some golf also, but found it too time-wasting for him; so he kept himself fit even in his advancing years by a vigorous, daily half-hour game of squash.

Since retirement, Barry had lived in London, where he died on April 15. He is survived by his widow (who still resides in London) and two sons, both in the medical profession: Claude (called after Claude Barnard, who deeply influenced Barry) in Edinburgh, and René in London. Barry's only daughter died in childhood.

Barry will long be remembered in Cork, where the Physiology Department is a monument to his ability and unselfish work for research. Many of his students now have distinguished positions, and all can look back on him as a very fine teacher and a valued friend.

JOSEPH REILLY

Prof. Gwyn Williams

PROF. GWYN WILLIAMS, professor of chemistry in the University of London (Royal Holloway College), died suddenly in hospital on April 6, at the age of fifty and at the height of his scientific activity.

Born on November 27, 1904, he was the only son of the late J. W. Williams, of Cae Ffynnon, Llandudno Junction, North Wales. He was educated at University College School and later became a student under Prof. K. J. P. Orton at University College, Bangor. After graduation, he was at St. John's College, Cambridge, as a Strathcona research student for two years, returning to Bangor in 1929 as a Fellow of the University of Wales. For a further five years from 1931 he worked in Cambridge on independent research in the Departments of Colloid Science and of Physical Chemistry. Later he spent some months

in the research laboratory of the Eastman Kodak Co. at Rochester, U.S.A.

It was not until 1939, at the age of thirty-four, that he took up academic teaching as assistant lecturer at King's College, London—then evacuated to Bristol. He was soon, however, given a more responsible position, and in 1946 he was appointed to the chair of chemistry at the Royal Holloway College, University of London. Since that time his department has thrived under his guidance and has become an active centre of research. He succeeded in obtaining a new building with greatly increased accommodation which was completed in 1951.

Dr. Williams's scientific work was concerned with the kinetics and mechanism of various chemical reactions, starting with studies of the chlorination of anilides under Orton and Soper and, at Cambridge, including the addition of bromine to olefins and the related problem of the catalysed polymerization of styrene, which he was still studying in recent years.

During the war years at Bristol, he joined with other members of the King's College staff in work on T.N.T. production for the Ministry of Supply, and this led to detailed kinetic studies of nitration in sulphuric acid. Williams took a prominent part in this work, which demonstrated the importance of the nitronium ion as the active agent in such nitrations. In recent years he had extended this study of nitrations very considerably, and had made use of Hammett's acidity function and of various triaryl-carbinol indicators in interpreting the results. The reversible nitration of guanidine and the esterification of alcohols by nitric and sulphuric acids were also examined in detail.

Prof. Williams served his College as a member of its Council and its Finance Committee; he was for a long period secretary of the Board of Studies in Chemistry of the University of London and latterly a member of the Senate. He also took a keen interest in Coleg Harlech, of which he was honorary treasurer. He was a chess player and a member of the Alpine Club, having climbed a great deal in Wales and Switzerland. He was an unassuming man, an assiduous worker and a wise and staunch friend. It is a tragedy that his work should have been cut short so abruptly.

NEWS and VIEWS

Botany at Cardiff:

Prof. R. C. McLean

PROF. R. C. McLEAN is retiring at the end of the present session from the chair of botany in the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire (Cardiff). A pupil of F. W. Oliver at University College, London, he worked on fossil plants with Sir Albert Seward at the Cambridge Botany School, pioneered in the ecology of tropical rain forest while attached to the botanical gardens at Rio de Janeiro (then directed by J. C. Willis) and later taught for some years at University College, Reading. During the First World War he served as a medical bacteriologist. In 1919 he was appointed to the chair of botany in Cardiff, and the thirty-six years of his tenure of office at Cardiff have seen his Department increase greatly in size and importance. A sub-department of bacteriology has been formed, a ciné-photographic production unit has been set up, a new physiological laboratory has been opened, and a botanic garden has been established on the outskirts

of Cardiff; and but for the Second World War, the Department would have moved into the new building which has been designed under Prof. McLean's direction and will soon arise in Cathays Park. He is noted for his encyclopaedic knowledge and wide sympathies, and for the lucidity of his exposition, and he has undoubtedly had a great influence on the teaching of botany not only in Wales but also far beyond. Prof. McLean's lifelong devotion to outdoor studies marked him out to be the one botanist to be appointed both to the Nature Conservancy and to the National Parks Commission when those two bodies were first set up. During the inter-war period Prof. McLean visited several countries in Europe in connexion with work of the International Association of University Professors and was president of the Association in 1953; he had previously (in 1940) been president of the Association of University Teachers. He has recently toured the world in order to visit national parks in overseas countries and to study their