

Under his direction, Dr. R. H. Stoy, who, on Dr. Jackson's retirement, succeeded him as H.M. Astronomer, undertook the determination of the magnitudes of the brighter southern stars, which has established the photometry of the southern stars on a satisfactory and accurate basis.

During the Second World War the staff at the Observatory was much reduced, many members having left to undertake war-work of various sorts. Nevertheless, the output of observations continued at a remarkably high rate, Dr. Jackson himself being an assiduous observer.

Among his other interests was the observation of total eclipses of the Sun. While at Greenwich he obtained successful observations of the total eclipse of 1927 at Giggleswick and that of 1932 at Parent in Canada. He had also led an eclipse expedition to Alor Star, Kedah, Malaya, in 1929, when clouds unfortunately prevented observations being obtained. In 1940, when the War prevented the eclipse expedition from Greenwich proceeding to South Africa for the observation of the total solar eclipse in that year, the instrumental equipment was sent to South Africa, and under Jackson's direction the eclipse was observed under clear conditions at Calvinia in Cape Province.

Dr. Jackson was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1913 and served as secretary during 1924-29. After his return to Britain he was elected president of the Society for the period 1953-55. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1938. He was president of the Commission on Meridian Astronomy of the International Astronomical Union during 1935-38, and president of the Commission on Parallaxes and Proper Motions during 1938-52. In 1952 he was awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society for his work on stellar parallaxes and his contributions to the general problems of star positions and proper motions. Last year he was awarded the Gill Medal of the Astronomical Society of South Africa for his important contributions to astronomy during his period as H.M. Astronomer. He was made C.B.E. in 1950. H. SPENCER JONES

#### Sir James Myers, O.B.E.

SIR JAMES MYERS, whose death was reported recently, had been associated with Manchester throughout his academic life. He was graduate in chemistry of Manchester, he served for a period as senior lecturer in chemistry and as secretary and tutor of the Faculty of Science of the University, and then, after a period as principal of the Manchester College of Technology, he was director of the School of Education of the University of Manchester.

Sir James was principal of the Manchester College of Technology during 1938-51—a period of very obvious difficulty. He had been a prominent member of the Faculty of Science in the University of Manchester, and it was hoped that he would consolidate relationships between the College as the Faculty of Technology and the rest of the University; instead, he was thrust into the hurly-burly of adaptation to the war effort. Under his guidance the College performed sterling work in both the educational and industrial fields.

There is little doubt, however, that he was not in his element in this sort of capacity; he preferred a slower-moving philosophical life. This was not to be, however. When the War ended, the College was

one of the first university institutions to proceed with extensions, and the trials and tribulations of this activity again fell largely on his shoulders. It was not surprising that, in 1951, after receiving a knighthood for his services to technological education, he withdrew to the more peaceful pastures of the School of Education in Manchester.

I had the privilege of working under him for six years. He was a delightful person to know—full of warm humanity, of witty stories told with a strain of philosophy that left its mark, of wise advice to his subordinates. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word, and his influence on the College will be felt for a long time. H. LIPSON

#### Dr. Kenneth W. Neatby

DR. KENNETH W. NEATBY, director of Science Service in the Canada Department of Agriculture, died on October 27. His death will be a very distinct loss to agricultural science and particularly to his own Service, which he has been directing for the past twelve years, and in which he was successful in building an effective research atmosphere. During the spring and summer of 1958, he had been instructed to take the lead in the formation of a Research Branch in the Canada Department of Agriculture through the amalgamation of Science Service and the Experimental Farms Service.

Dr. Neatby's career in research began with his appointment, in 1926, to the staff of the Dominion Rust Research Laboratory in Winnipeg. In addition to the actual development of varieties of wheat that were resistant to stem and leaf rust, he began a series of intensive studies of the inheritance of resistance to rust in wheat. Out of his work there came a much clearer understanding of the relation between the genes for resistance to rust and the various physiological races of the rust organism. This formed the foundation for work that is still going on and becoming increasingly valuable in our understanding of the cereal rust problem.

In 1935, Dr. Neatby went to the University of Alberta in Edmonton as head of the Department of Field Crops. This was perhaps the beginning of his intense interest in education, particularly for a research career in biology. His writings and addresses on this subject have undoubtedly had an important influence on the course of agricultural education and research in Canada. Some excerpts from an address given at Macdonald College are examples of his thinking: "The student who allows the laboratory to keep him from the library, thereby depriving himself of the influence of great men of the past in other fields of learning, as well as his own, may become a competent technician but he is unlikely to become an influential scientist." "We hear a lot about training for research, but surely this is either a contradiction in terms or a misapplication. Fruitful research depends on knowledge, imagination, ideas and dogged perseverance, not on techniques derived by formal training, essential as these may be."

During 1940-46, Dr. Neatby was director of the Farm Service of the North-West Line Elevators Association at Winnipeg. Here, he gained a first-hand knowledge of agricultural problems and became very conscious of the need for first-class research work in agriculture. From 1946 on, as director of Science Service, he built up an organization which has become very well known for its contributions in biology. C. H. GOULDEN