

tribution to the underwater detection of submarines and the development of radio.

After the War, de Broglie continued his researches on X-ray absorption discontinuities, and published, with his brother Louis, *La Physique des Rayons X*, which was a well-known standard work at that time. The laboratory was greatly enlarged and the number of research workers increased. De Broglie's interests turned towards nuclear physics, and some of the devices for observations of high-energy particles which have now become classical were first developed by de Broglie's team. He was elected to the Académie Française in 1934. For ten years he was president of the Conseil Scientifique de l'Énergie Atomique.

De Broglie won the warm affection of his students and his many friends all over the world, who will retain pleasant memories of their visits to his home and laboratory, where he was the kindest and most genial of hosts.

W. L. BRAGG

Prof. E. Henriot

WITH the death on February 1 of Emile Henriot, Belgian science lost one of its foremost representatives. Although of French origin (he was born in Besançon in 1885), he spent practically his entire scientific life in Belgium as professor of physics in the Université Libre de Bruxelles and was made emeritus professor in 1956. He suffered in the last few years from ill-health, which fortunately did not diminish in any manner his lucidity or his mental powers.

Among his many contributions to physics, two stand out by which his name will be remembered. The first was the subject of his doctor's thesis. By a masterly series of investigations, he was the first to show definitely that potassium and rubidium are naturally radioactive. This work, done before the First World War, was an investigation in the best tradition of the great French school of radioactivity measurements.

In more mature years came his justly famous investigations of extremely high angular velocities. He found that suitably placed air-jets can be used to spin tops at very high speeds, and he developed this technique to the point where it could be used for certain physical measurements. Although he originally wanted to use it for a precision determination of the speed of light, in the hands of Beams these air-driven tops became the mechanism of the then most successful ultracentrifuges.

Henriot was attracted time and again to questions of optics, where he was able to use his great theoretical skill. Problems of birefringence and molecular vibrations have been treated very successfully in several of his papers.

His contributions to physics went considerably beyond his own research. He was an outstanding teacher, and several of his former pupils are now professors of physics in different places. To the physics community at large, he was known as the organizer of the physics conferences of the Solvay Institute. For more than thirty years, he was a member of its administrative committee and for about twenty years he was its secretary. To the physicists going to these conferences he was a familiar figure, and he succeeded in maintaining these conferences at a very high level.

Physics was not his only love. Everything human attracted him, and his friends could, and did, learn much from him about art or archaeology. He had a fine collection of Greek marbles and a beautiful

library adorned by many valuable books. Moreover, he was an extremely warm human being, and those who had the good fortune of being his friends deplore his death.

The many distinctions which came to him were never mentioned by him. He was a very modest person, modest almost to shyness. He married one of his former students, who became his collaborator for very many years. During the Second World War, Henriot was professor at the University of Algiers, when evacuated from Belgium and France. By coincidence, his daughter still lives there. In the opinion of some of his colleagues, the good physics tradition in Algiers really started with his teaching there.

All his friends and the world of physics will miss him.

L. MARTON

Mr. G. W. G. Briggs

GUY BRIGGS, assistant director of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, died in hospital at Cambridge on March 7. His death at fifty-seven brings a deep sense of loss to his colleagues in many countries who shared his interest in problems relating to grassland and to seeds.

His early interest in agriculture developed as he lived during school vacations on his grandfather's farm at Melbourne in Derbyshire. From King's College, Wimbledon, he went to Wye College, where he gained distinction in botany and in agriculture in the diploma examinations.

Entering the Colonial Agriculture Service in 1926, he was in close touch with the experimental farms and with advisory work among the growers. Those who knew him at that time remember the keen personal interest he took in all who sought his assistance, both Africans and Europeans. He played a leading part in the development of the rice crop and he had the satisfaction of seeing Nigeria become self-supporting in this cereal.

Retiring on medical advice from the Colonial Service in 1945, he was appointed as a technical officer at the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, becoming head of the Seed Production Branch in 1948 and assistant director of the Institute during January 1960.

Briggs's great organizing ability was admirably combined with a deep appreciation of technical problems on seed production. The researches of Stapledon and his colleagues at Aberystwyth had shown the value of leafiness and persistence in grasses and clovers, and had led to the development of a series of varieties which possessed these qualities. Briggs played an important part in bringing these to the notice of growers and in helping to develop methods of seed production which enabled the new varieties to be grown commercially on a large scale without losing their distinctive features.

The agricultural industry was beginning to appreciate the value of seed produced under technical supervision, and it was Briggs who was mainly responsible for organizing, on behalf of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, the national certifying authority for herbage seeds. In this he had the strong support of the Welsh Plant Breeding Station, the seed trade and the National Farmers' Union.

Briggs took an active interest in developments in seed production abroad, and when, in 1958, the Organization for European Economic Co-operation adopted throughout the eighteen member countries an