popular choice for memorial lectures such as the Procter, Mather, and Sylvanus Thompson.

Astbury's importance lies in the questions he asked and when—stimulus rather than detailed answer. He was an individualist, poet, shy and unsure rather than leader, artistic amateur not scientific professional, Elia his fellow, his strength and weakness the courage and zest the egoisms of a boy, and 'ware the colleague who had to "be of no school and have no master". He brought his findings to market in the green ear, but would not clear the weeds nor suffer the system and technique necessary for the harvest. Inevitably the protein-structural breakthrough was lost, and it hurt. Yet at bottom he had the humility of giants, kindly to failure and to youth, and one warmed to the Croonian and Harvey lecturer who obediently yielded the pavement to a youthful fellow-dreamer chugging along his imaginary track. If he relished the quip 'physicists and stamp-collectors' his view of biological research was latterly more akin to Hinshelwood's than to Rutherford's.

"I have ventured,
Like little wanton boys that swim on bladders,
This many summers in a sea of glory,
But far beyond my depth."

He would rest content with the simple tribute 'salute to adventurers'. Married in 1922, he leaves a widow, son and daughter. I. MACARTHUR

WHEN I joined Sir William Bragg's team in the Department of Physics at University College, London, in 1922, W. T. (Bill) Astbury was decidedly the most colourful personality there. He took me under his wing and helped me in every possible way. I think it was partly his natural kindness and partly the fact that his intense happiness in his recent marriage to a lovely young Irish girl made him feel fatherly towards all young people. He was so full of enthusiasm for his work that none of us could feel it to be drudgery, even though it entailed sitting for hours on end with one eye glued to a microscope taking readings of the movements of a gold leaf. He was so delightfully pleased with his own achievements, not only then but throughout his life, that it was impossible not to rejoice with him; and he did achieve miracles with what would have seemed to most people almost intractable problems. Any discussion in which he took part, whether it was about crystal symmetry or about politics, became at once a matter of the greatest interest; any game that he played (and especially our lunch-hour international table tennis tournaments at the Royal Institution) became the more lively because he took part: the normal game was often too slow for him, and he would initiate some twist (five marks extra for hitting the matchbox off the table) to make it more fun. I count myself fortunate to have been one of his friends and colleagues.

KATHLEEN LONSDALE

Mr. W. V. Lewis

WILLIAM VAUGHAN LEWIS, lecturer in geography at Cambridge and Fellow of Trinity College, was killed in a motor accident at De Witt, Iowa, on June 8. His work gave him a high standing among geographers in Britain and abroad. With his exceptional eloquence and vitality, he was a born teacher. He was a good friend and had an enduring influence on the lives of many people. His early death comes as a great shock.

Vaughan Lewis was born at Pontypridd in 1907, and was educated at Pontypridd County School. He went up to Gonville and Caius in 1926 and so began a life-long connexion with Cambridge. He read Part I of the Mathematical Tripos, then turned to geography, finding his enduring interest in physiography. After completing the Tripos in 1929 he remained, first as a student, and then as a University demonstrator. He became a lecturer in 1945, when 'freezing' of University appointments ended. In 1949, to his great pleasure, he was elected a Fellow of Trinity College.

Vaughan Lewis's research career began when Prof. (then Mr.) Steers took him to Scolt Head Island. He was intrigued immediately with problems of coastal deposition and morphology, turning his own attention to Dungeness. He was engaged mainly with coastal research, until in 1936 he visited Iceland and became a confirmed glaciologist. While this was the field of his greatest influence, he typically enlarged, rather than changed, his interests, later doing much research on Chesil Beach, the results of which remain to be published. He had also a secondary interest in hydrology.

His glaciological work, carried out mainly in Norway and Switzerland, was concerned particularly with aspects of the structure, flow and erosive influence of cirque and valley glaciers. Apart from his published contributions to glaciology, such as his lively exchanges on the cirque problem with D. W. Johnson, it should be recorded that he was personally responsible for making physicists interested in field-work on glaciology. He played a leading part in the affairs of the British Glaciological Society, which has much enhanced latterly the active development of glaciology in Britain and elsewhere. Vaughan Lewis initiated two intensive research projects in Norway. The results of the earlier investigation of cirque glaciers were published in a research memoir of the Royal Geographical Society, of which he was the editor. His personal interests in the Austerdalsbreen Valley glacier project are recorded in a recent joint paper in the *Glaciological Journal*. These investigations depended on the co-operation of numbers of workers in different fields, and on the active support of generations of Cambridge undergraduates and research students. Vaughan Lewis again and again caught the real interest of undergraduates and, naturally, gathered around him eager groups of volunteers for field-work. The range and vividness of his ideas were such that he had a catalytic effect on the work of others. He was always generous, and would continue to encourage and assist those whom he had inspired to undertake some investigation. He will be sadly missed in many places. JEAN M. GROVE

Mr. Geoffrey Parr

WITH the death of Geoffrey Parr on May 30 at the comparatively early age of sixty-one, a colourful and popular figure leaves the scientific world. Parr received his formal education as an electrical engineer at the Finsbury Technical College, and, after working for the Admiralty during the latter part of the First World War, became a lecturer and demonstrator at the City and Guilds Technical College. In 1926 he joined the Research Department of the Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., where the cathode-ray tube was undergoing some of its early developments. Then in 1932 he took charge of the same Company's Technical Service Department.