

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 Scott 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.

His real *métier* and flair, however, appeared to lie in the communication of knowledge—writing, publishing, lecturing, editing and publishing.

In the middle 'thirties he published his first book, *The Cathode-Ray Tube and Its Applications*, which has since gone into many editions and become a standard work.

In 1941, Parr became the first editor of *Electronic Engineering* and did much to nurture that paper through its early phases and war-time difficulties. In 1948 he joined Messrs. Chapman and Hall, Ltd., as technical director, and remained in that appointment until his death, being responsible for the very considerable output of scientific books from this well-known house.

Recently, Parr wrote and published, in collaboration with Mr. J. Godfrey, *The Technical Writer*, a work which filled a much-felt void and should long remain an authentic guide to writing standards among scientific authors.

Apart from his professional work, Geoffrey Parr's 'side' activities were legion and these helped to absorb his boundless energy and enthusiasm. One of these was his association with Dr. Grey Walter in the development of the electro-encephalograph, for which Parr helped in the design and construction of the electronics and amplifiers, the whole forming the basis of a

joint paper to the Institution of Electrical Engineers, entitled "Amplifying and Recording Techniques in Electro-biology" (*J. Inst. Elec. Eng.*, 90, 3; 1944).

He also lectured frequently to technical colleges and societies throughout the country, usually on some aspect of television. Parr interested himself in many scientific societies and helped in the practical management of several of them. Among these, and in particular, was the Television Society of which Parr had been a Fellow for nearly thirty years, and to which he devoted so much paternal care and devotion. Becoming honorary lecture secretary in 1936, honorary editor of the *Journal* in 1944 and honorary secretary in 1945, he gave unstintingly his free time and attention before, during and since the War years. In fact, he had only retired from the office of honorary secretary a fortnight before his death. He helped the Society survive the War and then grow into its present stature, and, to a large extent, he personally fostered all the important aspects of its development.

Geoffrey had a host of friends in the world of television, in technical publishing and journalism, and wherever men of science gathered; for his gaiety, informality and humanity hundreds will remember him gratefully and affectionately.

T. H. BRIDGEWATER

NEWS and VIEWS

Pure Mathematics at Aberystwyth :

Prof. V. C. Morton

PROF. V. C. MORTON retires in September from the chair of pure mathematics at Aberystwyth after thirty-eight years on the staff of the University College of Wales. Educated at King Edward VII School, Sheffield, and Merton College, Oxford, of which he was a scholar, he served in the Royal Corps of Signals during 1916-19. On his return he became Junior and Senior Mathematical Scholar of the University of Oxford. He lectured for a year at Brighton Technical College and in 1923 was appointed lecturer at Aberystwyth. He became independent lecturer and head of the Pure Mathematics Department in 1926 and professor in 1933. He investigated various geometrical configurations, his best-known work being contained in a series of papers on the cubic surface. Dean of the Faculty of Arts, twice dean of that of Science and vice-principal, he has served the College and the University of Wales in many capacities, most notably as acting-principal of the College in 1957-58. A gifted teacher and a stimulating lecturer, wise in counsel and disinterested in judgment, his integrity and magnanimity are an inspiration to his students and colleagues alike.

Prof. W. B. Pennington

DR. W. B. PENNINGTON, who has been appointed to succeed Prof. Morton, is thirty-eight years of age. He had a distinguished career in Cambridge culminating, after interruptions by war service in the R.N.V.R. (1943-46) and two years at Harvard University (1950-52), in a Research Fellowship at Jesus. Since 1953 he has been reader in mathematics at Westfield College, University of London. Dr. Pennington is

well known to British mathematicians, not only for his contributions to the analytical theory of numbers, but also for his devoted activities in the service of the London Mathematical Society as member of Council, vice-president and *Journal* editor. With his forward-looking attitude to mathematics and the catholic range of his interests, extending to problems of mathematical teaching and administration no less than of research, Dr. Pennington has not stood aloof from the heart-searchings prevalent among mathematicians to-day, and his new appointment will enhance his opportunities for an effective part in the great debate. With his departure to Wales, Westfield College loses an able mathematician, a delightful colleague, an opening batsman and an accomplished baritone.

Physical Chemistry in Trinity College, Dublin:

Prof. D. C. Pepper

DR. DAVID CHARLES PEPPER has been appointed to the newly established chair of physical chemistry in Trinity College, Dublin. Prof. Pepper, born in 1917, was educated at Ushaw College, Durham, Bradford Technical College, from which he took the London degree of B.Sc., and Jesus College, Cambridge. Later, he was awarded the Cambridge degree of Ph.D. for work in the Department of Colloid Science in Cambridge. He was appointed assistant lecturer in Trinity College, Dublin, in 1945, and Fellow in 1951. He has been reader in physical chemistry since 1955, and has been a member of the Royal Irish Academy since 1953. Prof. Pepper's research career commenced with Sir Eric Rideal, with whom he worked on a variety of war-time topics, sponsored by the Scientific Advisory Council of the Ministry of Supply. These researches were concerned