

plough up the Slimbridge pastures adjoining the River Severn, which for centuries had been the habitat of wild geese. His critics said that with this terrific fertility no cereal crop would 'stand', but once again he proved them wrong. He was created C.B.E. in 1952, and in 1955 he received the Sir Thomas Baxter Prize and Gold Medal for outstanding work in dairy husbandry.

However, it is by his personal character that so many will remember him, and among his personal characteristics was a 'human' appreciation of his fellow men and the possession in a very large measure of that great virtue—tolerance. His wife, who survives him, was the greatest help to him throughout his varied career, by her companionship and understanding. The passing of this colourful character has created a void which will be difficult, if not impossible, to fill, and to the older generation who knew him—and there are so many—Bob Bouffour will always remain in their memory with affection as a generous, likeable and very 'human' person of outstanding ability; while the younger generation will reap the benefit of his scientific work, and the valuable contribution he made to British and, in fact, world agriculture. W. T. PRICE

Dr. A. E. Western

ALFRED EDWARD WESTERN, who died on October 11 at the age of eighty-eight, was one of the few who have been able to carry on mathematical research while fully engaged in another profession: in his case, that of a solicitor. He was educated at Marlborough and at Trinity College, Cambridge, which he entered with an open scholarship in 1892. He was seventh Wrangler in the Mathematical Tripos in 1895; the year in which Bromwich was Senior Wrangler and E. T. Whittaker second Wrangler.

Dr. Western published several memoirs on the theory of algebraic numbers, and one on the theory of groups, during the years 1898–1911, and showed himself to be thoroughly at home in a subject which was then little cultivated in Britain. His standing as a mathematician was recognized by the award of the degree of Sc.D. by the University of Cambridge in 1910. He gradually became more interested in questions of numerical computation, and published several notes giving the numerical evidence which he had found for various conjectured formulæ of Hardy and Littlewood relating to the distribution of primes, to the occurrence of primes of the form $n^2 + 1$, and to Waring's problem.

During the last years of his life he was engaged (jointly with Dr. J. C. P. Miller) in completing a table projected by the late Lieut.-Colonel A. J. C. Cunningham, with whom he had formerly collaborated. This table, which is essentially a continuation of Jacobi's *Canon Arithmeticus*, is shortly to be published with the help of a bequest made by Cunningham to the London Mathematical Society for the purpose.

Dr. Western was closely associated with the London Mathematical Society over a long period, and rendered great service to it. He became a member of the Council in 1900, and treasurer in 1913 in succession to Sir Joseph Larmor. He retired from this office in 1950, and many members will recall the delightful speech he made at a dinner held at that time.

As a solicitor, Dr. Western was a pioneer in initiating 'legal aid', and it was largely from his work that the legal aid scheme used in courts in Britain developed.

He will be remembered by many as a man of great kindness and of transparent sincerity and honesty of purpose. H. DAVENPORT

NEWS and VIEWS

Geology at Trinity College, Dublin:

Dr. R. G. S. Hudson, F.R.S.

THE chair of geology and mineralogy at Trinity College, Dublin, vacated by Prof. W. D. Gill on his appointment to the chair of oil technology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London (see *Nature*, 191, 651; 1961), has been filled by the appointment of Dr. R. G. S. Hudson, Iveagh Research Fellow in geology at Trinity. Dr. Hudson, who studied geology at University College, London, under the late Prof. E. J. Garwood, joined the staff of the Geological Department at Leeds in 1922, became professor of geology in 1939 and during 1940–45 acted as consulting geologist to various companies engaged in the search for oil in Great Britain. During these years he published mainly on the Dinantian and Namurian of the north of England, demonstrating the rhythmic succession of the Yoredale Series, the stratigraphical relationship of the limestone of the Craven Reef Belt, the pre-Namurian age of the Mid-Craven Fault, and helped in mapping a large part of the Craven Lowlands. He also worked with W. S. Bisat on the goniatite faunas of the Namurian and, in particular, detailed the goniatite succession in the Alport Boring in Derbyshire. During 1946–58 he was a senior research geologist and palaeontologist

with the Iraq Petroleum Company, leading field exploration parties in Kurdistan, Iraq (1949, 1950) and in the Oman Mountains of Arabia (1951, 1952), and publishing on the stratigraphy and faunas of these areas. Much of the present knowledge of the Middle East Mesozoic faunas, in particular the stromatoporoidea and hydrozoa, is due to his work. He has received the Foulerton Award of the Geologists' Association and the Wollaston Award and Murchison Medal of the Geological Society. He has also been president of the Yorkshire and the Liverpool Geological Societies and the Palaeontological Association, and a vice-president of the Geological Society. In 1959 he was made an honorary member of the Société Belge de Géologie et Paléontologie, and in 1961 he was elected to the Royal Society.

The British Nuclear Energy Society

ON January 1, 1962, the British Nuclear Energy Society will be established in succession to the British Nuclear Energy Conference. The successful use of nuclear energy demands the application of many divisions of science and technology and a constant interchange of knowledge and experience between those trained primarily in these divisions. It was to provide a channel for this interchange that in 1955