OBITUARIES

Prof. T. R. C. Fox

TERENCE ROBERT CORELLI FOX, the first Shell professor of chemical engineering in the University of Cambridge, died in London on October 5 at the age of fifty. He was born on May 2, 1912, the only son of the late C. Fox, and was educated at the Regent Street Polytechnic Secondary School from where he won a minor scholarship to Jesus College, Cambridge, which he entered in 1930. At Cambridge Fox read for the Mechanical Sciences Tripos and throughout the course swept all before him. He obtained first-class honours in the Tripos of 1933 with the Rex Moir Prize, which is awarded to the candidate placed top of the list, and distinctions in theory of structures and in aeronautics. He received in addition three University prizes for the best performance in thermodynamics, in aeronautics and in structures.

On going down from Cambridge he joined Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., as a technical assistant and had four years of practical experience at Billingham before returning to Cambridge as a University demonstrator in engineering in 1937. He was elected a Fellow of King's College in 1941 and was promoted University lecturer in 1945. As one of his grateful pupils stated in *The Times* of October 9, Fox, while being a good and clear lecturer, was probably at his best as a college supervisor; in this capacity he gave invaluable service to King's. In the years immediately after the War he played a prominent part in the Department of Engineering in the re-organization of the courses which led to the division of the Tripos into two parts in 1947.

In 1946, Cambridge received a great benefaction from the Shell Group which enabled the University to establish a department of chemical engineering and Fox was elected to the new Shell professorship. At this time chemical engineering was a somewhat neglected subject in British universities. The number of students was small, and scientifically the subject was probably well behind its American counterpart. Fox spent a year visiting American universities to see how the subject was treated there, and on his return drafted a syllabus which combined the best of what he had seen with certain additional features which were the product of the Cambridge engineering tradition and of his own meticulous and penetrating mind. When he turned his attention for the first time to chemical thermodynamics, for example, his scrutiny went far deeper than that of most physical chemists. The staff, which he assembled from various disciplines, after recovering from the realization that they still had much to learn, came to share Fox's rigorous approach to the subject. The result has been that chemical engineering enjoys the undisputed status of an academic discipline not only at Cambridge but also at a dozen other universities; for Fox's doctrines have spread widely, and five members of the Cambridge staff have left to become professors elsewhere. The fact that the subject has shaken off its dubious associations with the old-fashioned chemical technology and that it has become the antithesis of an 'easy option' is due as much to Fox as to anyone.

Fox also carried the main burden of housing and equipping the new department. He first secured a temporary site where he built a small but efficient laboratory in huts. No sooner was this completed than he began to plan a more permanent laboratory. On this he lavished every care and, though his meticulous attention to the master-plan and to every detail was probably a trial to both the architect and contractor, the building in Pembroke Street to which the Department moved in 1959 stands as a memorial to his far-sightedness.

The burden of administering a university science department to-day can be heavy, but it is small compared with the labour and anxiety of creating one. Fox, who was a gentle and modest man, exhausted himself during twelve years of effort and was forced by ill-health to resign his chair in 1959. He returned as a University lecturer to the Department of Engineering to which he had earlier given devoted service.

Fox, in spite of his outstanding ability, was devoid of any personal ambition to make a name for himself as a public figure, a writer or research worker. He devoted himself single-mindedly to the well-being and efficiency of his department, and many of his former colleagues and pupils will remember gratefully the humanity with which he did so. JOHN BAKER

Mr. Walter Buddin

WALTER BUDDIN died on August 14 at Reading, after a short illness. His death must have come as a considerable shock to many friends who had talked with him less than a month earlier at a meeting of the British Mycological Society in Harpenden. On that occasion, he had appeared in good health, and was certainly in his usual cheerful spirits. For many years, no meeting of the Society had seemed complete without him, and there was no member whose loss could have caused a greater gap.

Born on November 5, 1890, Walter Buddin eventually proceeded to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, and studied in the School of Agriculture. After taking his B.A. degree (he later took the M.A.), he was awarded a Board of Agriculture Research Scholarship in 1912, and went with it to Rothamsted, where he took part in research on partial sterilization of soil under the direction of Sir John Russell, and later visited the United States. During the First World War, he served with the R.A.M.C., spending part of his time in Egypt, where he contracted paratyphoid fever—a misfortune that may have been responsible for impaired health in later life. In 1919, he became a Ministry of Agriculture research exhibitioner at the Cheshunt Experimental Station, where he collaborated with the director, Dr. W. F. Bewley, in studying contamination of glasshouse water supplies by the spores of plant-pathogenic fungi; their joint paper on this subject attracted wide attention and is still quoted. During 1921–46, Buddin held the post of economic mycologist to the Southern Advisory Province and was attached to the University of Reading. In 1946 he transferred to the analogous position in the newly formed National Agricultural Advisory Service and continued in the