

deeply grateful. Although he listened with sympathy he could be a task-master—to all of us he was our 'father figure'. In the School of Chemistry at Bristol he will long be missed.

G. NICKLESS

Dr. Allen B. Du Mont

DR. ALLEN B. DU MONT, the television pioneer of Cedar Grove, New Jersey, died on November 14, 1965, at the age of sixty-four. He was best known for his work in perfecting the cathode-ray tube.

Dr. Du Mont was born in Brooklyn, New York, on January 29, 1901, and he became a ship's wireless operator at an early age. He received his degree in electrical engineering from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York, in 1924, and afterwards received honorary degrees from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, Fairleigh Dickinson University, New York University, and Montclair State College.

At the Westinghouse factory in Bloomfield, New Jersey, Dr. Du Mont worked on the development of high-speed manufacturing and test equipment for radio tubes. Later, as chief engineer of the De Forest Radio Company, of Passaic, New Jersey, he worked closely with Lee De Forest. In 1928 they established the first synchronized sight and sound television station *W2XCD*, using the Nipkow disk mechanical scanner at both the camera and receiver.

Recognizing the limitations of a mechanical television system, he then started his own company in 1931, later known as Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories, Inc. Dr. Du Mont afterwards expanded the company to produce a variety of cathode-ray tubes, the first commercially sold television receivers, television broadcast transmitters and studio equipment and an extensive range of scientific apparatus. He started the Du Mont Network with Station *WABD* before the Second World War and later linked it with the companion Station *WTTG* in Washington, D.C. From 1934 until the merger in 1960 with Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation, Dr. Du Mont served as director, president or chairman of the board of the Allen Du Mont Laboratories, Inc.

During the 'thirties, Dr. Du Mont worked on the development of radar systems and cathode-ray displays for both the Signal Corps and the Navy. His company contributed greatly in these fields during the Second World War and also to the Loran and Manhattan Projects, and later to nuclear propulsion instrumentation.

Dr. Du Mont served on the National Television System Committee, contributing to the formulation of broadcast standards for both monochrome and colour television. He was United States delegate to the International Radio Consultative Committee for consideration of international colour television standards. He collaborated extensively with the Federal Communications Commission in matters pertaining to the allocation of very high and ultra-high frequency television channels.

In 1943 he became the first president of the Television Broadcasters Association, which later combined with the National Association of Broadcasters for both radio and television.

Through the Allen B. Du Mont Foundation he took part in the establishment of Educational Television in co-operation with the Montclair State College in New Jersey and served on the New Jersey Commission for Educational Television. The Foundation also participated in and financed research in medical electronics.

Among his many awards, Dr. Du Mont received the Marconi Award of Achievement, the Horatio Alger Award, and he was made Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur. In 1927 he was awarded the Westinghouse Award for Most Outstanding Accomplishment, in 1943 the American Television Society Award for Advancement of Commercial Television, and in 1944 the Television Broadcasters Association Award for the development of the cathode-ray tube.

Dr. Du Mont was one of the Public Governors of the American Stock Exchange and was vice-chairman of the Board of Trustees of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

As an enthusiast for power boats, Dr. Du Mont won many awards for navigational accuracy in predicted log racing. With his boats, *Hurricane II* and *Hurricane III*, he did much to discover and interpret the multi-path and propagation effects of both television and radar signals.

THOMAS T. GOLDSMITH, JUN.

NEWS and VIEWS

Steacie Prize: Prof. N. Bartlett and Prof. J. C. Polanyi

PROF. NEIL BARTLETT, of the Department of Chemistry, University of British Columbia, and Prof. J. C. Polanyi, of the Department of Chemistry, University of Toronto, will share the 1965 Steacie Prize. The Prize consists of the income from the E. W. R. Steacie Memorial Fund to which colleagues and friends of the late president of the National Research Council contributed. It is awarded annually for outstanding work done in the natural sciences by younger people. Prof. Bartlett is cited for the first preparation of a chemical compound of a noble gas (*Proc. Chem. Soc.*, 218; 1962). The compound, XePtF_6 , was prepared by the reaction of xenon with platinum hexafluoride. This startling experiment evolved logically from work on the fluorination of platinum and platinum compounds that Prof. Bartlett had been doing with D. H. Lohmann. The result immediately stimulated a flurry of experiments in other countries and soon a number of compounds of xenon and krypton had been prepared. The ramifications will not soon be exhausted. Prof. Polanyi was the first to observe infra-red chemiluminescence (Cashion, J. K., and Polanyi, J. C., *J. Chem. Phys.*, 29, 455; 1958), the occurrence of which he had predicted theoretically two years previously. The experimental techniques that he evolved have now been refined,

and a wide range of atomic and molecular excitations caused by chemical reactions are being studied in Toronto and elsewhere. Five years ago, he published a proposal for a chemical laser (*J. Chem. Phys.*, 34, 347; 1961) and it has recently been shown to be practical. Both Prof. Bartlett and Prof. Polanyi are graduates of British universities. The former received a Ph.D. in 1958 from the University of Durham and the latter a Ph.D. in 1952 and a D.Sc. in 1964 from the University of Manchester.

Principal of the University of Stirling:

Prof. T. L. Cottrell

PROF. T. L. COTTRELL, professor of chemistry in the University of Edinburgh, will take up full-time duties as principal of the new University of Stirling in August. Prof. Cottrell graduated with honours in chemistry at the University of Edinburgh in 1943, and joined the Research Department of the Explosives Division of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., at Ardeer. After working in the Physical Chemistry Laboratory at Oxford, he returned to Imperial Chemical Industries (Nobel Division) and became head of the Physical Chemistry Research Section in 1950. He was awarded the Meldola Medal of the Royal Institute of Chemistry in 1952. At the time of his appointment to the chair of chemistry in