

obituary

Robert Alexander Houstoun, a leader in the optics field, died on May 4 at the age of 92.

A student of Glasgow, he pursued his studies at Cambridge and Göttingen, where he obtained his PhD. Joining the staff of Glasgow's natural philosophy department in 1906 he continued his research in optics till he retired in 1948 and for some years after as an Honorary Research Fellow. His research interests were varied but he is best recalled for his work in colour vision and the measurement of the velocity of light in air and water by the piezo-quartz shutter method, which he developed. He also found time to write a considerable number of successful books. His *Treatise on Light*, first pub-

lished in 1915, was for a long time the standard work in its field, and a considerable number of published papers flowed from his pen from 1904 to the end of the 1960s.

Eric H. Lenneberg, professor of psychology and neurobiology at Cornell University, has died at the age of 53.

At the time of his death, Dr Lenneberg was working on a clinical research project in neuropsychology at the Westchester Division of New York-Cornell Medical Center, after having joined Cornell in 1968. His major scientific achievement was considered to be the proposal, first advanced by him in the 1950s, that the human capacity for

language could be explained only on the basis of the biological properties of the brain and vocal tract. He had summarised his experiments and views in his book *Biological Foundations of Language*, published in 1967. Dr Lenneberg was born in Germany and after spending much of his youth and childhood in Brazil, went to the US in 1945, eventually obtaining degrees from Columbia and Harvard. He joined the staff of Harvard, and later carried out basic research on language development in defective children at the Children's Hospital Medical Center in Boston while on the staff of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. From 1967-68, he was professor of psychology at the University of Michigan.

announcements

Awards

The Royal Institute of Chemistry has made the following awards: **Meldola Medal and Prize** for 1974 to **P. J. Derrick** for contributions to the development of field ionisation kinetics and mass spectrometry; **Beilby Medal and Prize** for 1975 to **P. R. Swann** for work in electron microscopy of metals alloys and phase transformations.

Reports and publications

Great Britain

The Annual Report of the Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex for the year 1974. Pp. 60. (Falmer, Brighton: SPRU, University of Sussex, 1975.) [15]

Advisory Committee on Oil Pollution of the Sea. Annual Report for 1974. Pp. 28. (London: Advisory Committee on Oil Pollution of the Sea, 39 Victoria Street, 1975.) [15]

Report by the Hydrographer of the Navy, Rear-Admiral G. P. D. Hall, for the year 1974. Pp. 40. (London: Ministry of Defence, 1975.) [55]

Grassland Research Institute. Technical Report No. 16 March 1975. The Construction of Instruments for Measuring and Manipulating the Plant Environment. By J. E. Sheehy and A. M. Tearle. Pp. 36. (Hurley, Maidenhead, Berks: The Grassland Research Institute, 1975.) £1.50. [55]

Royal Greenwich Observatory. Greenwich Time Report, Time and Latitude service 1974 January-June. Pp. 36. (Herstmonceux: Royal Greenwich Observatory, 1975.) [85]

Oxford Biology Readers 78. The Productivity of the Sea. By D. H. Cushing. Pp. 16. (London: Oxford University Press, 1975.) 30p. [95]

Institution of Gas Engineers. Communications. No. 955: Fifth Report of the Education and Training Committee, 1974/75. Pp. 26. £1. No. 956: Presidential Address by A. G. Pratt. Pp. 35. £1. No. 957: Technical Aspects of Natural Gas in Victoria. By J. M. Shaw. Pp. 24. £1. No. 958: Developments in Industrial Service in the West Midlands. By K. Manuel and J. W. Price. Pp. 26. £1. No. 959: Segas—a Suitable Case for Modelling. By H. W. D. Hughes and R. J. Martin. P. 26. No. 960: Gas from Coal for Synthesis of Hydrocarbons. By J. C. Hoogendoorn. Pp. 13. £1. No. 961:

The Development of a Computer Assisted Customer Service System. By H. N. Coates and A. L. Hardy. Pp. 21. £1. No. 962: The North Sea and the British Energy Scene. By J. G. Liverman. Pp. 14. £1. No. 963: Money—at What Price? By J. H. Smith. Pp. 32. £1. No. 964: The SBGI and the Gas Appliance Industry—Its Role in Britain and Europe. By A. J. Adam. Pp. 17. £1. No. 965: Engineering for Expansion. By G. F. E. Roberts. Pp. 28. £1. (London: Institution of Gas Engineers, 1975.) [125]

Meteorites: a Concise Account. By A. A. Moss. Pp. v + 26. (London: British Museum (Natural History), 1975.) 35p. [125]

Structural Analysis and Structural Failure. By Professor E. H. Brown. (Inaugural Lecture, 13 November 1973.) Pp. 183-198. (London: Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London, 1975.) £1.50. [125]

Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. B: Biological Sciences, Vol. 189, No. 1095: A Discussion on the Recognition of Alien Life. Organized by N. W. Pirie. FRS. Pp. 137-274. (London: Royal Society, 1975.) UK £3.20; Overseas £3.30. [125]

Some Results of Research in Chemical Engineering and Technology Supported by the Science Research Council. Pp. 15. (London: Science Research Council, 1975.) [145]

Multiple Sclerosis. Pp. 40. (London: Office of Health Economics, 162 Regent Street, 1975.) 25p. [155]

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. B: Biological Sciences, Vol. 270, No. 907: The Behavioural Final Common Path. By D. J. McFarland and R. M. Sibly. Pp. 265-298. (London: The Royal Society, 1975.) UK £1.20; Overseas £1.25. [155]

Competition, Risk and Profit in the Pharmaceutical Industry. (An Economic Review commissioned from Runnymede Research Limited and based on Studies by George and Priscilla Tolanyi.) Pp. 53. (London: The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, 162 Regent Street, 1975.) [165]

Radiation Science at the National Physical Laboratory, 1912-1955. By E. E. Smith. Pp. v + 114. (London: HMSO, 1975.) £5 net. [195]

Ireland—Oil and Gas Exploration. By K. W. Robinson and R. P. Riddiough. (Information Circular No. 8.) Pp. 11. (Dublin: Department of Industry and Commerce, The Geological Survey of Ireland, 1975.) [195]

Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy, Vol. 1, No. 1, March 1975. Pp. 1-129. Published quarterly. Vol. 1 (4 issues) Inland £9.50; Abroad £10.85. USA, Canada, Central and South America \$24.50 plus \$1.50 postage. (London and New York: Academic Press, 1975.) [195]

Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. B: Biological Sciences, Vol. 189, No. 1096: A Discussion on Organic Pollutants in the Sea—Their Origin, Distribution, Degradation and Ultimate Fate. Organized by H. A. Cole and J. E. Smith. Pp. 275-483. (London: The Royal Society, 1975.) UK £3.20; Overseas £3.30. [205]

Other countries

Institut Royal Météorologique de Belgique. Publications, Série B. No. 78: Sur la Simulation en Laboratoire des Mouvements Troposphériques de Grande Echelle. Par A. Quinet. Pp. 28. No. 80: An Iterative-Synoptic Method for Estimating the Barometric-Effect on Neutron Monitor Data. By Dr. A. O. Van Gysegem. Pp. 11. Publications, Série A, No. 87: Ozone and Total Oxidant Level in the Surface Layer at Uccle. By D. De Muer. Pp. 25. (Uccle-Bruxelles: Institut Royal Météorologique de Belgique, 1975.) [304]

Przegląd Bibliograficzny Roslin Leczniczych/A Bibliographical Review of Research on Medicinal Plants. Pp. 161. (Poznan: Instytut Przemysłu Zielarskiego, 1974.) [304]

University of California, Institute of Marine Resources. Biennial Report for the two years ending 30 June 1974. Pp. 50. (La Jolla: Institute of Marine Resources, University of California, 1974.) [55]

National Research Council of Canada. Associate Committee on Scientific Criteria For Environmental Quality. Status Report. Pp. 63. (Ottawa: Publications, NRCC, 1975.) \$1.25 [55]

Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology. No. 177: Revision of the Blennioid Fish Genus *Omobranchius* with Descriptions of Three New Species and Notes on Other Species of the Tribe Omobranchini. By Victor G. Springer and Martin F. Gomon. Pp. iii + 133. (Washington: D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1975.) For Sale by US Government Printing Office. \$2.65. [65]

World Health Organization, Public Health Papers, No. 59. Administration of Environmental Health Programmes: A systems view. By Morris Schaefer. Pp. 242. (Geneva: World Health Organization, 1974.) Sw. Fr. 12. [65]

World Meteorological Organization. Catalogue of Publications, 1951-1975. Pp. vi + 119. (Geneva: World Meteorological Organization, 1975.) n.p. [65]

Publications of the United States Naval Observatory. Second Series Vol 22 Part 6. Photographic Measures of Double Stars. By F. J. Josties *et al.* (Washington, D.C.: US Government Printing Office, 1974.) n.p. [75]

Environment Canada. Fisheries and Marine Service Technical Report No. 531. Harvesting, Processing and Composition of Sea Cucumber Meal as a Possible Substitution for Herring Meal in Trout Diets. By A. M. Suterlin and Susan Waddy. Pp. ii + 8. (St. Andrews, New Brunswick: Research and Development Directorate, 1975.) n.p. [75]

Environment Canada Fisheries and Marine Service Technical Report No. 532. Observations on Lobsters and Scallops Near Pictou, N.S. By D. J. Scarratt. (St. Andrews, N.B.: Research and Development Directorate, 1975.) n.p. [75]