OBITUARY NOTICES.

MATTHEW HUNTER.

1863—1941.

DR. MATTHEW HUNTER, C.I.E., was born near Settle in 1863 and went to Giggleswick school. From that school he obtained a scholarship in Natural Sciences at Queen's College, Oxford, where he took the Final Honours School in Natural Science. He was awarded the Burdett Coutts University Scholarship in geology and studied later at the Universities of Strasburg and Heidelberg.

In 1890 Hunter entered the service of the Educational Syndicate, Rangoon, a body which, at that time, controlled education in Burma, as a lecturer in Rangoon College. The College was affiliated to the University of Calcutta and remained so until the foundation in 1920 of the University of Rangoon. Hunter remained on the staff of the College until his retirement in 1923. He served first as senior lecturer in Chemistry, then as Professor of Chemistry and finally, after several times officiating in the appointment, as Principal of the College. He also acted for a number of years as Chemical Examiner to the Government of Burma. In 1904 he was appointed to the Indian Educational Service. In 1916 he was awarded the C.I.E.

The last Burmese war had only just ended when Hunter went to Burma and the next thirty years saw great changes. Amongst these was a great increase in the number of Burmans employed in Government service. Many of them were Hunter's old pupils. He never forgot a face and a journey with him in Burma was enlivened by a constant stream of reminiscences. At every railway station old pupils would come to pay their respects and his recollection of their names and college careers was instant and accurate. Many of them had spent college vacations with him, walking in the hills of the Shan plateau before ever the railway from Thazi was made. Many also owed their college careers to his generosity, which was as unfailing as it was spontaneous. He was deservedly respected by his old pupils and returned their affection. Probably the saddest moment of his career in Burma was when, in 1920, at the time of the first College strike, he failed to persuade his students to return. This estrangement was temporary, and when he left Burma in 1923 many hundreds of past and present students came to the jetty to pay their respects to their old teacher.

Hunter was slow to form his judgments but tenacious in holding them. He did not take kindly to Committee government. His treatment of his College Council rather resembled that attributed to Lincoln in his dealings with his Cabinet. He was a shrewd and kindly judge of character, patient and exceptionally helpful to beginners. The author owed much to his advice and help.

During Hunter's service in Burma Rangoon College grew from a small institution, affiliated to Calcutta University and with only a few score pupils, to a great college with over a thousand students and, under the title of University College which was bestowed upon it, the chief unit of the University of Rangoon. In 1915 the new Chemistry wing, designed by Hunter, was opened for use. Before he left he saw the site acquired and plans prepared for what was to become one of the largest residential Universities in Asia. In 1922 the University of Rangoon awarded him the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.

Hunter took great interest in the athletic life of the College and built up an Association football team which was for long unbeaten. For many years he acted as Secretary and Treasurer to the Rangoon Literary Society, which, founded in 1857, was for long the chief general Library not only for Rangoon but also for the whole of Burma. It was an arduous task which he discharged with great zeal until his retirement in 1923.

Hunter joined the Chemical Society in December, 1885, and was one of the small band of Fellows whose membership lasted for over fifty years. He died in May, 1941.

D. H. PEACOCK.

WALTER ODLING.

1852—1942.

WALTER ODLING was born on April 14th, 1852. He was the son of a surgeon and was educated at the City of London School, where he took the Edkin Memorial medal for mathematics and gained the medal for chemistry. He also obtained the Mortimer Exhibition for chemistry and a Whitworth Scholarship for science. Through the advice and influence of his cousin, Dr. William Odling, F.R.S., he went to the Royal College of Chemistry and School of Mines, and later became private assistant to Sir Edward Frankland, F.R.S. He was elected a Fellow of the Chemical Society in 1873 and in 1885 became one of the first Fellows of the Institute of Chemistry. In 1935 the Institute awarded him the Frankland medal. In 1874, he was appointed Chemist and Brewer to Messrs. Bass and Co., Burton-on-Trent, by the late John Gretton. He was there nearly 50 years and was Head Brewer at the Old Brewary for 28 years, retiring at the age of 70 in 1922.

Odling was one of the founders of the Burton Archæological Society and for 12 years Chairman of the School of Science.

He married first a sister of Dr. Horace Brown, F.R.S., a Director of Messrs. Worthington, Brewers, and Professor Adrian I. Brown, F.R.S., Professor of Brewing at the Birmingham University. In 1904, he married Lydia Mary, daughter of George Lloyd Williams.

Odling came of a long-lived family. His grandfather, Charles Odling of Tetney, Lincolnshire, was born in 1750 in the reign of George II and his father was born in 1793 in the reign of George III.

G. Lloyd Williams.

REECE HENRY VALLANCE.

1888—1942.

Reece Henry Vallance died at Birmingham, after a brief illness, on September 27th, 1942, in his 55th year. He was born at Tamworth and educated at the local Grammar School; after matriculating at London University, he continued his studies at the Municipal Technical School, Birmingham, now the Central Technical College, and at Birmingham University, where he graduated B.Sc. in 1910. On the outbreak of war in 1914, he enlisted in the 17th Royal Warwickshire Regiment and, because of his scientific knowledge, was transferred in the following year to the special Brigade, R.E. He fought at Loos, Hullach, Cuinchy and on the Somme and was seriously wounded at Beaumont Hamel in June, 1916. This led to his being invalided out of the army in the autumn of 1917, and he was then appointed chemistry master at King's Norton Secondary School, Birmingham. Two years later he was appointed lecturer in the Chemistry Department of the Municipal Technical School, a position which he occupied until his death. He continued his research work and in 1922 was awarded the M.Sc. In 1918 he had been elected an associate of the Institute of Chemistry, and in 1927 he received the Fellowship. In 1931 he became a Fellow of this Society and contributed several valuable papers to the *Journal*.

He was author of " Arsenic," joint author with D. F. Twiss and (Miss) A. R. Russell of " Sulphur, Selenium and Tellurium " and with A. A. Eldridge of " Chromium and its Congeners," Vols. IV. (Part 4) and VII. (Parts 2 and 3) respectively of "A Textbook of Inorganic Chemistry " edited by J. Newton Friend.

In his researches Vallance covered a wide field, including studies of Caro's peroxymonosulphuric acid, adsorption, iron carbonyl, and determinations of the solubilities of ferrocyanides. Perhaps his most valuable work was on complex acid tungstates and sodium paratungstate. Papers on all of these subjects are published in the *Journal*.

Vallance was extremely popular with his colleagues and students. His serene, unruffled temper and his desire to help made him much beloved by all. He was much more than a brilliant chemist; he studied the humanities as well. He will long be remembered both at home and at College for his welfare activities. He was Chairman of the Hampton in Arden Scout Group Committee. He was also a Gas Identification Officer and frequently lectured on Home Defence.

He is survived by his wife and two children—a son, serving his country in the Navy, and a daughter, serving as a nurse in S. Africa.

J. Newton Friend.

WILLIAM JOHN YOUNG.

1878—1942.

On January 26th, 1878, William John Young was born in Manchester, England. In childhood he early showed an interest in science, and after leaving school entered Owens College, Manchester, eventually graduating as Master of Science. Later he obtained the coveted Doctor of Science, London.

In 1902, Young commenced research work at the Lister Institute and was associated with the famous biochemist Harden. The first important discovery made by these two investigators was of the significance of phosphate in yeast juice fermentation. If yeast juice be allowed to ferment sugar, the rate of carbon dioxide evolution is at first rapid but gradually diminishes. If, now, alkali phosphate be added, the evolution of carbon dioxide is immediately increased. Presently the production of gas lessens, to be stimulated once more by further addition of phosphate. Phosphate ions disappear and organically bound phosphates temporarily take their place. Harden and Young found that the formation of phosphoric esters was an integral part of the conversion of sugar into alcohol. Of great theoretical and practical interest was their further observation that, if the yeast juice were dialysed, a colloidal enzyme fraction was retained by the dialysing membrane and this had no longer any powers of fermentation. When the diffusible thermostable component of the juice was added to the thermolabile non-diffusible portion, fermentation readily occurred.

Later work confirmed their investigations and now it is realised that in yeast dialysate there are at least three phosphorus compounds necessary for enzyme activity in fermentation; these are aneurin pyrophosphate (vitamin B_1 pyrophosphate), co-enzyme I (a dinucleotide), and adenyl pyrophosphate. These discoveries of Harden and Young were an introduction to a variety of interesting researches by many workers which revealed the importance of phosphorus in cellular metabolism. The modern interpretation of the chemistry of muscular contraction is a further development of the work initiated by them.

When the Australian Institute of Tropical Medicine was founded in Townsville, Young was appointed to the post of biochemist and with his wife and daughter—now Dr. Sylvia Young of the Department of Public Health, Jerusalem—spent several happy years in this North Australia setting. In 1919, Professor W. A. Osborne was instrumental in obtaining the appointment of Young as lecturer in biochemistry in Melbourne in succession to the late A. C. H. Rothera. It was then that the writer first met Young and for more than twenty years was closely associated with him in the teaching of biochemistry in the University of Melbourne. He later became Professor of Biochemistry and developed a very sound school in that subject. In all these years Young was an indefatigable worker and ever-delightful associate. He was deeply interested in the applied aspects of biochemistry and conducted researches in the ripening of fruits, especially bananas, and also in the problems associated with the transport of meat. As a member of the National Nutrition Committee and a consultant to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research he contributed much useful, practical advice.

Young was very fond of walking in the country and for many years was a member of a well-known walking club in Melbourne. His familiar figure was invariably present at the fortnightly outings. He was a charming companion and a welcome visitor everywhere, for he was always interested in the affairs of others and had the extraordinary and most endearing faculty of remembering any trivial happenings in the lives of his very large circle of friends who mourn his untimely passing.

IVAN MAXWELL.