

OBITUARY NOTICE.

THE REV. WILLIAM HUGHES.

1890—1948.

THE REVEREND WILLIAM HUGHES was born in 1890, the son of William Hughes, Esq., a farmer in Anglesey. He was educated at the County School, Llangefni, and was elected to a scholarship at Jesus College, Oxford, in 1910. He read for the Honours School of Natural Science (Chemistry) and was placed by the examiners in the Second Class in 1914. He stayed on in Oxford working under the supervision of the writer for the B.Sc. Degree, which he achieved with a research on The Vapour Pressures of Saturated Salt Solutions, in which he showed skill and resource.

Although he might well have continued as an active and conscientious researcher, he had strong religious feelings and these led him to read for and take Holy Orders in 1916. He served for a short time as a curate at Wrexham, but the great need for Science teachers in the 1914—1918 war led him to undertake school work where he found a field of service consonant with his high principles. He was Science Master at Bedford School from 1917 to 1925, and from 1925 until his death at King Edward's School, Southampton. Having thus returned to the laboratory he found time, in spite of his busy life of teaching, to carry out further research, and an experimental paper on the action of salt solutions on magnesium metal was published in this Journal. He also became more interested in theoretical work and published several communications on the application of the law of mass action to salt solutions and on some aspects of valency.

In his later years, Hughes became very reserved and somewhat aloof, but Mr. Arnold, the Headmaster of King Edward's School, records that he inspired gratitude, particularly among his scholarship pupils, to whom he was affectionately known as "Father William."

Much sorrow clouded his later years; his daughter Gwynneth, to whom he was devoted, was accidentally killed while on military service, and his only son was attacked by disease which necessitated his removal to the milder climate of South Africa. Shortly afterwards his wife also died, leaving him completely alone. He continued his school work until a few days before his death, for he was struck down suddenly and died soon after entering Southampton Hospital.

M. P. APPLEBEY.