

OBITUARY NOTICE.

T. SLATER PRICE, F.R.S.

THOMAS SLATER PRICE was born on August 24th, 1875, and died on October 29th, 1949. Educated at King Edward's High School, Birmingham, he proceeded to Mason College, Birmingham, and graduated with first-class honours in chemistry and physics at the University of London in 1895. In that year he was appointed Priestley Research Scholar in chemistry at Mason College and in the following year, as an 1851 Exhibition Scholar, he moved to Leipzig to study under Professor W. Ostwald. Graduating Ph.D. "*summa cum laude*" in 1898, he studied for a further year in Professor Arrhenius's laboratory at Stockholm.

On returning to Britain in 1900, he was appointed honorary lecturer in chemistry at Mason University College, and in the following year he went to University College, Sheffield, as assistant lecturer. After two years as senior lecturer in chemistry at the University of Birmingham, he was appointed Head of the Chemical Department of the Birmingham Central Technical College in 1903, a post which he held until 1920. Under his direction the work in this Department was completely re-organised and extended, and, although his energies were very fully occupied in teaching and organisation, he was able to carry out a large number of researches on per-acids, organic disulphides, and complex metal ammines, the results of which are embodied in some forty papers published during this period. For his work he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science of the Universities of London and Birmingham.

In April 1916, Slater Price was commissioned as lieutenant, R.N.V.R., in order to take up special chemical work of a secret nature at the Royal Naval Experimental Station, Stratford, and later he was put in charge of all the chemical and technical work of this Station and promoted lieutenant-commander. Among the many problems which were studied under his direction at this time was the devising of materials for making smoke screens such as were used in the Zeebrugge raid.

Early in 1920 he was appointed director of research to the British Photographic Research Association. Under his able direction and inspiration, a long list of papers was published year by year from the laboratories of the Association until it closed down in 1930. He was appointed to the chair of chemistry in the Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh, in 1931, and retired in 1940.

Slater Price was a member of the General Council of the Royal Institute of Chemistry during 1911—14 and 1921—24, and served as Vice-President during 1924—27. Keenly interested in the training of young chemists, he was largely responsible for the initiation of the scheme for National Certificates in Chemistry. In 1921 he was elected to the Council of the Chemical Society and served as its Senior Secretary during 1924—28, as Honorary Treasurer during 1928—31 and as Vice-President, 1931—34.

He was a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society, a member of the Council of the Society, 1922—31, and Vice-President, 1926—29. He was an Hon. Member of the "*Société Française de Photographie*."

He was gazetted an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (Military Division) in 1919 and elected a fellow of the Royal Society of London in 1924 and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1932.

Since his retirement, Slater Price had been in very poor health, and those who watched him during these later years could not but be impressed by the patient fortitude and inner peace with which he bore his increasing physical limitations. The death of his beloved wife a little more than a year ago was a loss which he felt most keenly, for she had nursed him with loving care in his great weakness.

Professor Slater Price was a man of outstanding gifts of mind and insight. His clear and definite faith in the reality of God was the mainspring of his life, enabling him in the days of his health to serve his Church loyally and devotedly, and all his days to inspire those who met him in scientific circles or in private life.

HUGH B. NISBET.