

OBITUARY NOTICE.

J. L. A. MACDONALD.

1887—1952.

ON December 20th, 1952, Dr. J. L. A. Macdonald, D.S.O., D.Sc., for many years Chief Chemist to the paper-making firm of Tullis Russell, died suddenly at his home, Cadham House, Markinch, Fife.

James Leslie Auld Macdonald was born on March 27th, 1887, at 1, Leigham Court Road, Streatham, London. He was the only son of Thomas Macdonald, Barrister-at-Law of the Middle Temple. Leslie, as he was known to his friends, was educated at Rugby School and at St. Andrews University, where he graduated B.Sc., with honours in Chemistry, Geology, and Zoology, in 1909.

Inspired by the teaching of Professors Purdie and Irvine, Macdonald took up research in Chemistry, and until 1914 he held a Carnegie Fellowship at St. Andrews. During this period he worked on various reactions of glucose and acetone, and his results, partly in his own name and partly in collaboration with Professor J. C. Irvine, were published in the *Transactions of the Chemical Society*.

During the First World War he served with the infantry in France, was awarded the D.S.O., and attained the rank of Lt.-Col., commanding the 12th (S.) Bn. the Royal Scots.

On demobilisation he returned to St. Andrews University, where in 1919 he was awarded the D.Sc. degree for his thesis on the acetone derivatives of reducing sugars. In the autumn of the same year he became Chief Chemist to the firm of Tullis Russell at Markinch, a post which he held until his retirement in July 1952. Under his guidance the laboratories were much enlarged and the scope of the laboratory work greatly extended. Among the varied researches directed by him during this period was the differential staining of paper-making fibres which is so admirably illustrated in the monograph produced by the Company in 1950. He was a member of the first Committee of the Technical Section of the Paper Makers' Association of Great Britain and Ireland, and he took a prominent part for many years in its proceedings. In recent years most of his practical laboratory work had been devoted to the study of alternating currents of very high frequency; though he had made some interesting observations the results were not yet sufficiently coherent to warrant publication.

Dr. Macdonald had for many years been President of the Markinch Branch of the British Legion. During the Second World War he was Commanding Officer of the 5th Fife Bn. of the Home Guard from its inception, and in 1943 he was promoted to the rank of Colonel and given command of the South Fife Sector.

As a young man he was a very pretty golfer, capable of completing the Old Course at St. Andrews in less than 80, and he still retained his membership of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club. He was a skilled photographer, a keen horticulturalist, and an expert fly-fisherman. In all these activities he excelled through the application of scientific method.

Dr. Macdonald is survived by his wife, one son, and one daughter.

E. W. SHANN.