

the degree of Ph.D. for a thesis entitled "Investigations on Cellulose". Since 1927 he had been senior lecturer in the Department, and in this capacity he carried out and directed a considerable amount of research work in carbohydrate chemistry. In 1936 he was awarded the degree of D.Sc. for a thesis entitled "Walden Inversions in the Sugar Group"; this thesis also gained him the Sykes Medal for outstanding merit. His investigations, most of which were published in the *Journal of the Chemical Society*, dealt largely with the interconversion of simple sugars through anhydro-derivatives and the problem of the natural formation of lactose, glucosamine and allied substances.

Courteous and considerate to his colleagues and students, Robertson has been described as "an excellent teacher endowed with unusually fine powers of expression and easy fluency". His military training enabled him to render valuable services to the University O.T.C. throughout his period as a member of the University staff. He leaves a widow and two sons of school age.

Mr. H. Young

By the death of Mr. Henry Young on September 23, the Royal Institution loses its last surviving link with Faraday. Mr. Young used to say that Faraday was a frequent visitor to his home, and as a child he must have seen him, though he was too small to remember meeting him.

Mr. Young was engaged as assistant in the library of the Royal Institution in 1879 and ten years later was appointed assistant secretary and keeper of the library, which double post he held until his retirement in 1929. He was also assistant secretary of the Davy Faraday Research Laboratory from its foundation in 1896. At their meeting on December 2, 1929,

the managers elected Mr. Young a member of the Royal Institution, and at the general meeting on the same day Sir James Crichton-Browne, on behalf of the members, presented him with a silver rose bowl and a cheque as a mark of their appreciation of his long services. After his retirement, he was a frequent visitor to the library which had been under his care for so many years. Mr. Young compiled valuable bibliographies of the scientific work of Tyndall and Dewar, under both of whom he served. Afterwards, as librarian to the Duke of Bedford, Mr. Young was fortunate in finding a congenial and not too strenuous occupation for his leisure hours in the library at Woburn Abbey.

Modest and retiring in disposition and of a genial nature, Mr. Young had a remarkable knowledge of the history and inner working of the Royal Institution, which he loved and to which so many years of his life were devoted.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Dr. J. D. Comrie, lecturer in the history of medicine, University of Edinburgh, and president in 1927 and 1930 of the Section of the History of Medicine of the British Medical Association, on October 2, aged sixty-four years.

Prof. Harvey Cushing, For. Mem. R.S., emeritus professor of neurology in Yale University, known for his work on the surgery of the brain, on October 7, aged seventy years.

Dr. Heinrich Karny, formerly of the Botanical Garden, Buitenzorg, Java, an authority on the Orthoptera, on August 7.

Prof. Charles Peabody, formerly curator of European archaeology in the Peabody Museum, Harvard University, on August 17, aged seventy-one years.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Prof. A. McKenzie, F.R.S.

At a graduation ceremony held on October 6 in the Old Parliament Hall of the University of St. Andrews, and presided over by Sir James Irvine, principal and vice-chancellor of the University, the honorary degree of LL.D. was conferred, amongst others, upon Emeritus Professor Alexander McKenzie, professor of chemistry in University College, Dundee, from 1914 until 1938. In presenting him for the degree, Prof. John Read, the present occupier of the chair of chemistry at St. Andrews, said that McKenzie, when he was appointed to the chair of chemistry in University College, Dundee, in 1914, was already well known as a distinguished graduate of the University of St. Andrews, with a brilliant record of original research, begun with Purdie at St. Andrews, continued with Markwald at Berlin, and extended independently in London and Birmingham. His later researches, together with those of his many collaborators, published during his twenty-four years

at Dundee, are familiar to chemists all over the world; for he was a skilful chemist and philosophic thinker of international renown, who has brought light into many of the dark places of stereochemistry. His pioneering researches with the Grignard reagent; his work on asymmetric synthesis and on the migration of organic radicals; his isolation of optically active benzoin: these, and other achievements, are characterized by a subtle elegance and a rare combination of fastidiousness and delicacy. In attacking the refined secrets of the organic molecule, he discards the ponderous weapons of men of grosser mould for the light rapier of the "chymical Artist". By his brilliant and untiring investigations, McKenzie has brought renown to his university and his college; by his stimulating teaching he has inspired successive generations of his students; by his wise counsel he has aided his colleagues of Court, Senatus, and Faculty; and by his gifts of sympathy, kindness, and understanding he has gained the esteem and affection of all.