

OBITUARIES

Sir D'Arcy Power, K.B.E.

SIR D'ARCY POWER, who died on May 18, at the age of eighty-five, was first and foremost a writer. This was his finest asset. He gave evidence of this talent early in life, for when he was at the Merchant Taylors' School he won the Tyler Prize for history, and about the same time the prize for the boy best suited for a merchant's office. From that time almost to his death he wrote, and when at the age of seventy-five his works were collected in a complimentary volume, the items numbered more than six hundred.

He wrote on many subjects, though mostly in relation to his own profession. He wrote on the craft of surgery, on the history of medicine, biographies of past surgeons, and of such interesting details as the eyesight of Samuel Pepys and the reason why he discontinued his Diary, and how and when 'Surgeons' became 'Gentlemen'. He had a pretty pen and a happy phrasing, which make what he wrote a pleasure to read. He will be remembered by his writings long after more fashionable surgeons have been forgotten.

At St. Bartholomew's Hospital Sir D'Arcy became surgeon and consulting surgeon. At the Royal College of Surgeons he occupied successively all the more important posts. He was Hunterian lecturer, Hunterian orator, Vicary lecturer, and finally vice-president, as his father, Henry Power, was before him. But his activities did not cease there: he was an authority on Harvey and Hunter, a member of innumerable hospital and benevolent associations, a member of dining clubs and antiquarian societies, and a collector of books. The catalogue of the sale of his books at Sotheby's in the near future is an indication of his wide interests and catholic tastes. His circle of friends, both in Great Britain and abroad, especially in the United States, was immense; and he had a large post from all quarters requesting his help in all matters relating to medical historical research.

In his later years Sir D'Arcy occupied himself congenially and usefully as honorary librarian at the Royal College of Surgeons, there he compiled notices of the lives of the fellows. He was also archivist at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where he was working on an incomparable set of deeds and documents dating back to the twelfth century, which have so far escaped fire and damage.

In his personal disposition D'Arcy Power was happy. He was full of cheeriness, so much so that students, often apt to discern, dubbed him "Sunny Jim", a nickname that stuck. Though he has now gone, and we miss him, we need have no regrets; for his life was pleasing and all our memories of him are pleasant. He was getting very tired, and was glad to lay down his pack. His seed, too, lives after him; for he leaves a son, D'Arcy, who holds a distinguished position in the medical service of the Royal Air Force; his grandson, D'Arcy Tertius, has entered the medical profession, and his granddaughter holds a commission in His Majesty's Forces.

G. E. GASK.

Mr. John Crompton, O.B.E.

MR. JOHN CROMPTON, president in 1937-38 of the Textile Institute, Manchester, died on May 31 at the age of seventy-eight. We are indebted to the *Textile Journal* for the following particulars. He was of the family that numbered one of the fathers of the cotton industry, namely, Samuel Crompton, the inventor of the cotton spinning mule. His father was a hand-loom weaver of silk fabrics, who eventually found his way into a cotton mill in Walkden, where his son joined him at a later date. It was from his father that John Crompton had his first lessons in cloth structure—a subject in which he perfected his knowledge at a later date by means of a model loom he devised. His studentship meant long and arduous study, but his tenacity of purpose and keen application overcame the many difficulties. He was one of the pioneers of technical education, first as a student and then as a teacher; eventually he became an examiner in his subject for the City and Guilds of London Institute.

Mr. Crompton contributed many articles to the technical trade press at a time when textile literature was very scanty. No doubt it was his appreciation of the lack of reliable information that caused him to welcome the advent of the Textile Institute, for which he did much useful work as a member of council for many years and of several of the Institute's committees. In 1930 he was awarded the Textile Institute Medal. He established in memory of his son, Lieut. Harry Dent Crompton, who was killed in the War of 1914-18, the Crompton Prize Fund for textile design. In 1923 the University of Manchester conferred on him the degree of M.Sc. in recognition of his work for the advancement of textile technology.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Sir Francis Anderson, emeritus professor of philosophy in the University of Sydney, aged eighty-two.

Prof. A. C. Carson, of the Department of Geology, Mineralogy and Geography in the University of South Carolina, Columbia, distinguished for his contributions to seismology.

Dr. G. van Dijk, of the Royal Meteorological Institute of the Netherlands, noted for his work in seismology, on December 19.

Mr. G. R. Redgrave, formerly inspector of schools under the old Department of Science and Art, and later chief senior inspector of technical schools at the Board of Education, on June 14, aged ninety-seven.

Prof. J. E. Taylor, emeritus professor of thermodynamics in Cornell University, on May 4, aged seventy-six.

Dr. Eric Therkelson, head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering of Montana State College at Bozeman, and Collaborator in Seismology for the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey.