

summed up as a man of abounding energy, vision and executive power.

Sir William was always proud of his Aberdeen origin and the feeling was mutual; "a citizen of no mean City", he used to say. T. F. PURVES.

Dr. Alexander Lauder

ALEXANDER LAUDER died at Greenock, his birth-place, on November 11, at the age of seventy-three. He studied first under Prof. Dittmar, in what is now the Royal Glasgow Technical College, and then with Prof. Crum Brown at Edinburgh before taking up his first appointment as assistant to Prof. (later Sir J. J.) Dobbie in the newly founded University College of North Wales at Bangor.

In addition to assisting in the Chemistry Department, he took up the study of agricultural chemistry and carried out experimental work, more particularly in connexion with the field experiments. In conjunction with Prof. Dobbie, he made an elaborate investigation into the alkaloids of *Corydalis cava* and worked out the constitution of these alkaloids, the results being published in a series of papers in the *Journal of the Chemical Society* (1892-1904). Along with Prof. Dobbie, he took up the study of absorption spectra and investigated the connexion between the chemical constitution and the absorption spectra of certain organic compounds, in which work they were pioneers.

In 1904 Dr. Lauder was appointed head of the Chemistry Department of the newly founded Agricultural College, Edinburgh, and in 1907 also became responsible for the teaching of agricultural and forest chemistry to the University degree classes. In addition to his teaching, he carried out many investigations in various branches, giving particular attention to the composition of milk as affected by the feeding of the animal, the composition of swede turnips and heather and differences of a chemical

nature in potato varieties. Most of that work was published in the *Scottish Journal of Agriculture* and in *Agricultural Progress* or in special reports. He retired in 1936.

Dr. Lauder had also a long record in administration, for he acted at various times as secretary and treasurer to the College and as director of studies for four or five years immediately after the War of 1914-18. He served on the councils of the Royal Institute of Chemistry and the Society of Chemical Industry, and was chairman of the East of Scotland Branches of the Chemical Society and the Royal Institute of Chemistry. He was prominently identified with the work of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and served on the council for ten years and was assistant secretary to the ordinary meetings for five years. He also took an active share in the work of the British Association, being for a time secretary of the Agricultural Section, and president of the Section for the Leicester meeting in 1933 when the subject of his address was "Chemistry and Agriculture".

Dr. Lauder was much interested in music and in English literature. He was a member of the Reid Orchestral Committee for many years, an active member of the Bach Society, and various other musical bodies. He had accumulated a library of standard English works, the study of which gave him much pleasure.

By those who knew him, he will always be remembered for the services he gave so ungrudgingly, for his sound judgment, for his wit and generous nature.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. J. Macfarlane, emeritus professor of botany in the University of Pennsylvania, on September 16, aged eighty-seven.

Prof. Umetaro Suzuki, president of the Scientific Research Institute, Manchukuo, emeritus professor in the Imperial University of Tokyo, aged sixty-nine.

NEWS and VIEWS

Presidential Address to the Royal Society

In the course of the presidential address to the Royal Society, delivered as customary on St. Andrew's Day, Sir Henry Dale noted that Sir Henry Tizard, foreign secretary of the Society, has returned from a scientific mission to Australia, and that Prof. A. V. Hill, the senior secretary of the Society, has gone to India as a result of a request sent to the Society by the Government of India. Prof. Hill is to consult with that Government on scientific affairs, and in particular is to advise on scientific and industrial research in relation to measures of post-war reconstruction, and on the co-ordination of such plans in India with corresponding activities elsewhere. During his absence, Prof. E. J. Salisbury will take Prof. Hill's place as biological secretary of the Society. During his visit to India, Prof. Hill hopes to carry out a unique ceremony. It is part of the formal admission of fellows of the Society that they subscribe the obligation in the Charter Book; of the six Indian fellows, only two have hitherto been able to do this. Prof. Hill has accordingly been provided with a sheet of suitable parchment on which the

fellows' obligation is inscribed, and the four Indian fellows who have not yet signed the Charter Book will be formally admitted to the Society.

Sir Henry Dale then passed on to discuss the needs of research. He claimed for science its share of credit for the change of prospects now apparent in the War; and remarked that while science cannot afford to relax its efforts, it must also look to the future. If Great Britain is to hold its place alongside new civilizations built from their foundations on modern science, such as those of the U.S.S.R. and China, we must think of research on a higher as well as larger order than hitherto. The Royal Society will welcome any movement advocating great expansion of the nation's support of applied research, whether through the Government's Research Councils, through Departments concerned with the uses of science for defensive preparations in peace-time or for other national interests, or with the training of recruits for research by the universities. Fundamental researches also must not be neglected. British discoverers are as great as any in a world era of great discovery, but often they have lacked proper equipment and