

and professors simply setting out to walk, carrying what books and apparatus they could, as if it were a thousand years ago. This University has now re-assembled at Huachi. Hsiangya and Kweiyang Medical Colleges, however, managed to secure some truck transport and moved to Chungking, where they are remaining for the time being.

Western Kuangsi was recaptured early this year from the Japanese, but in a ravaged state. The city of Liuchow, for example, was burnt to the ground. The scientific development of these provinces was just in its opening phase, stimulated by the evacuation from the coastal cities; it has been distressing to see so cruel a frost nip it in the bud.

OBITUARIES

Sir David Milne-Watson, Bt.

A LEADING national industry and a wide circle of friends and admirers will regret the death on October 3 of David Milne-Watson. He was one of those Scotsmen possessed of unbounded energy and enormous capacity for work who, trained as a lawyer, developed great administrative and organizing ability coupled with a facility to understand human nature which made him a great leader of men of all grades of society.

Born in Edinburgh in 1869, he gained two degrees at the University before entering a law office. Something lured him to Balliol College, Oxford, and from there he completed his education at Marburg. He was tempted by politics like many young lawyers of his time and contested the South-Eastern Division of Essex in 1895. Fortunately for the gas industry he was unsuccessful, and though he was called to the Bar in the next year we find him attracted into industry in 1897.

A large statutory company like the Gas Light and Coke controlled by various Acts of Parliament has need from day to day of the best legal assistance: the Company chose Milne-Watson for this work. Once there his administrative abilities developed rapidly; he became general manager in 1903 and managing director in 1916. Two years later he became governor, a position giving him the supreme leadership of the Company. He held this post until April last—a term of forty-eight years with the Company.

This is not the place to trace the development of the Gas Light and Coke Co. under his leadership. It provides a highly efficient service for Greater London north of the river; indeed it stretches from Windsor to the North Sea, and is both the largest and the leading gas company throughout the world.

Milne-Watson became a technician as well as administrator; he appreciated to the full the part that science should play in the gas industry and provided full opportunity both for research and development. He was responsible for the installation of adequately equipped and staffed research laboratories to deal with gas manufacture, tar products and the utilization of gas.

Milne-Watson had the inspiration at an early stage to enlist the co-operation of Sir Harold Hartley, and the edifice created between them has placed the gas industry in the forefront of those industries which by research work in all the sciences are continually giving better service to the public. So far from

being effete, as is sometimes suggested, the gas industry is in the very forefront of progress, an achievement which redounds very largely to the credit of Milne-Watson.

Milne-Watson realized also the responsibility which lies on a large firm to promote the education of its employees. Every encouragement and special facilities for study were provided, while Milne-Watson himself served on several important committees dealing with education. As the leader of the gas industry in Britain he could not escape a large share of the co-operative work required by the industry, including the relations with labour; and here again his high qualifications made him a member of many national labour inquiries, committees and conferences, including the International Labour Office at Geneva. Space prevents reference to his many other activities, for he was unsparing of his energies in helping national and public causes.

But it is essential to stress his human qualities. He had the widest possible circle of business friends, to whom he was never too busy to give a word of kindly advice or lend a helping hand. In his own Company he prided himself on being the 'father' of a great family. Though forthright in utterance, he was a very lovable and much respected man. He became a knight in 1927 and a baronet in 1937, and had two sons and a daughter.

E. F. ARMSTRONG.

Dr. A. Lees

DR. ANDREW LEES, of the Projectile Development Establishment (Ministry of Supply) and University College, Swansea, died suddenly, after only a few days illness, on August 29, in his thirty-fourth year.

Dr. Lees was born on November 30, 1911. He had a brilliant career at University College, Nottingham, taking the B.Sc. with first-class honours in mathematics, winning the Lubbock Prize awarded by the University of London, and then taking the M.Sc. with a mark of distinction. His research work in quantum mechanics gained him a scholarship at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he studied under Prof. P. A. M. Dirac, who described him as possessing a quite unusual imagination and power of abstraction. Dr. Lees obtained the Cambridge Ph.D. degree, and was then appointed to the staff of University College, Swansea, but he had only been there about two years when war broke out.

After a short period in the Army, Dr. Lees was transferred to the Projectile Development Establishment at Cardigan. Owing to the requirements of official secrecy, details of his work there cannot be given; but it is allowable to say that as a member of the ballistics group he made several valuable contributions to the theoretical and practical aspects of the external ballistics and fire control of anti-aircraft and other weapons. In his spare time he continued his researches in quantum mechanics and related branches of mathematical physics; at the time of his death he had two papers accepted for publication and he was engaged on a third. His correspondence shows that he had many ideas which he was hoping to develop as soon as he could be released from war duties, and his published work would, in all probability, have been considerably augmented if he had been spared for even a few more years.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow and two young daughters.

H. T. H. PIAGGIO.