

twenty years, and important contributions were made to knowledge.

Dr. Slater was, at one time, chairman of several sub-committees of the British Standards Institution concerned with the standardization of methods of analysis of coal and coke. He was an original member of the Coal Research Club, a select body of pioneers in the scientific study of coal. On behalf of the Midland Institute, he conducted a thorough investigation into the sizing of commercial grades of coal in Yorkshire, putting forward recommendations for simplification which proved to be of great value when the matter was examined on a national basis ten years later. He was recognized as an authority on the Yorkshire Coalfield and his knowledge and advice were widely valued in Yorkshire mining circles.

R. A. MOTT
A. M. WANDLESS

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Dr. D. A. Hanson

DR. DANIEL HANSON, who was killed climbing in Switzerland on July 25 when acting as a leader at an instructional meet of the Alpine Club, was the only son of Prof. Daniel Hanson, professor of metallurgy in the University of Birmingham. He was educated at Shrewsbury and the University of Birmingham, where at the time of his death he was a research fellow in the Department of Anatomy. Hanson was a brilliant student with wide intellectual interests. In 1945 he won the Chancellor's Essay Prize in competition with undergraduates from all

faculties, a unique distinction for a medical student in his University. His medical education was undertaken as a preliminary to research into problems of human behaviour.

After qualifying in 1947, Hanson began work on the interrelations of neural and endocrine factors. His researches were fruitful, and during the two years of his research fellowship he had published papers on the influence of age and sex on reasoning, on the effect of sex hormones on the performance of a learned response, and on their effect on the water content of tissues. Two further papers were about to be submitted for publication. Hanson's main contributions to knowledge were, first, the fact that oestrogens affect the performance of learned responses in rats, and secondly, that the phenomenon of insight which is occasionally observed in behavioural experiments on rats is largely a function of age and handling. An abstract of the opening paper given by Hanson to a symposium on "Aggression in Nature and Society" appears on p. 428 of this issue. Hanson's death at the age of twenty-five removes a scholar of exceptional promise and considerable charm. He leaves a widow and child.

S. ZUCKERMAN

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. James A. Bowie, principal of the Dundee School of Economics, on September 1.

Prof. S. H. Reynolds, emeritus professor of geology in the University of Bristol, on August 20, aged eighty-two.

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NEWS and VIEWS

British Association: Presidents for 1950 and 1951

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH has accepted the invitation to become president during 1951 of the British Association, when the annual meeting will be held in Edinburgh.

The announcement that Sir Harold Hartley has accepted the presidency of the British Association for 1950 will be received with general satisfaction. Sir Harold has already held high office in the Association, where his work has contributed so much to its great success. Educated at Dulwich College, where he came under the influence of that distinguished chemist, H. B. Baker, he showed at an early age an enthusiasm for chemistry. It was not surprising, therefore, that at Oxford he had a brilliant scientific career. For some thirty years he was associated with the Oxford School of Physical Chemistry, and that famous school of research and teaching now directed by Sir Hartley's former pupil, Sir Cyril Hinshelwood, owes much to Hartley's inspiration. The administrative achievements of Sir Harold Hartley are common knowledge. His flair for administration was given prominence during the First World War, in which he attained the rank of brigadier-general and became controller of the Chemical Warfare Department at the Ministry of Munitions. Since that time, among high administrative offices he has held with distinction, are the vice-presidency and directorship of research for the L.M.S. Railway, 1930-45, and the chairmanship of the British Overseas Airways Corporation, which he relinquished recently. In emphasizing his outstanding success as a scientific investigator and an administrator, his great interest in the arts must

not be overlooked. Books and pictures are vital matters to him. As a lecturer he is in great demand on important national and international occasions.

Physical Society's Awards:

Dr. G. M. B. Dobson, F.R.S.

THE Physical Society has awarded its Charles Chree Medal and Prize for 1949 to Dr. G. M. B. Dobson for his work on physical meteorology. Dr. Dobson is one of Britain's outstanding physical meteorologists whose researches have been chiefly concerned with the physics of the upper air. He has designed and used two instruments of outstanding importance in meteorological work. The first, an electronically operated recording double spectrometer for measuring the amount of ozone in the upper atmosphere, is now in use all over the world and is of great importance. The second, an automatic photo-electric hygrometer for use in high-altitude flights, was used with great success during the War, and has recently been described in the *Proceedings of the Physical Society*. Dr. Dobson has obtained very interesting and unexpected results with this instrument, which has solved one of the outstanding instrumental problems of meteorology. Dr. Dobson will receive the Medal and will describe his work at a meeting of the Society on November 4.

Dr. A. J. Guinier

THE 1949 Charles Vernon Boys Prize has been awarded to Dr. A. J. Guinier. Dr. Guinier's principal researches have been concerned with problems of