

G. D. Holmes (Alice Holt), who, in conjunction with G. F. Barnsley (Shell), also discussed the potentialities of herbicides for the reduction of *Calluna*, prior to tree planting. Many investigations in the past have shown that the effectiveness of an arboricide is dependent on the rate and extent of its transport, and some preliminary results on the value of chromotropic acid for detecting the movement of chlorophenoxyacetic acids in woody tissues were given by G. O. P. Eaton and G. F. Harding (Burt Boulton and Hayward).

Recently, trichloroacetic acid has shown promise for the control of some grasses, and A. L. Abel (Pest Control, Ltd.) gave an account of how this material could be used for elimination of *Agropyron repens* in lucerne and other crops. The extraordinary persistence in the soil of one of the latest herbicides—*p*-chloro-phenyl-N,N-dimethyl urea—was evident from the account given by Dr. E. K. Woodford (Oxford) of the work that has been undertaken at Oxford and the Vegetable Research Station. On the University Field Station, plots treated more than two years ago with 60 lb./acre are still almost free from vegetation, and H. A. Roberts added that at Wellesbourne, following on an application at the rate of 0.5 lb./acre in March, turnips sown in July were killed. Nevertheless, it would appear that this new material at very low dosages may be of value for the selective control of weeds in a few relatively resistant crops, such as carrots.

A number of papers related to the general problems of techniques of application.

The proceedings will be published early in 1954; a council was formed to arrange, *inter alia*, for future conferences.

## OBITUARIES

### Prof. Matthew A. Parker

THE death occurred on November 29 of Prof. Matthew A. Parker, at the age of eighty-two. Prof. Parker was for thirty-three years head of the Chemistry Department of the University of Manitoba, since the inception of that University as a teaching institution in 1904. On his retirement in 1937, he was honoured with the title of emeritus professor. Matthew Parker was a Scotsman, born in Renfrewshire and educated at the University of Glasgow, where he took the B.Sc. degree. After a year's postgraduate work at Heidelberg, he returned to his native Glasgow, as a lecturer at the Royal Technical College; he later became lecturer in organic chemistry in the University of Glasgow. While teaching in Glasgow, he collaborated with the late Prof. G. Henderson in the publication of a little book on qualitative analysis which was in use until quite recently at the University of Glasgow.

In 1904, Parker went to Winnipeg to establish the new Department of Chemistry which had just been created by the University of Manitoba. Prior to this date, the University had existed only as an examining body. Along with Parker, three other professors were also appointed to direct three different science departments, namely, Swaile Vincent to physiology, Reginald Buller to botany, and Frank Allen to physics; all of them have had distinguished careers.

On his arrival in Winnipeg, Parker found his department to consist of one laboratory, unfurnished,

one lecture theatre, no staff but himself, and eight students. From this humble beginning he built up a Chemistry Department in the best traditions of Europe, and of Scotland in particular. Of necessity, the Department was for long a purely teaching institution; but Parker was always keenly alive to the necessity for research and, as his staff grew, he endeavoured to appoint men who would prosecute and encourage research. The First World War, and still more the depression, hampered development, but when he retired in 1937 (unhappily through an affection of the eyes—he had hoped to complete forty years of service to the University), the number of students in the Department had increased to eight hundred, and the staff to five.

Not only was Matthew Parker a great teacher, he was also a great personality. He was a splendid example of the genus Scottish gentleman—kindly, caustic, generous and shrewd. His interests extended far beyond those of science. His love of music amounted to a passion, and his knowledge of literature was wide. In these days of high specialization, there are few men who can lay claim to the wide culture of Matthew Parker. I am personally indebted to him for unbroken kindness and help, extending over twenty years. He is survived by his widow and his three daughters.

A. N. CAMPBELL

### Dr. William Goodwin

DR. WILLIAM GOODWIN died at his home at Wye, Kent, on December 30, at the age of eighty.

He received his early training as a chemist in the University of Manchester, and his first post was that of an analyst to a commercial firm in Glasgow. It was here that he began his agricultural studies by attending evening classes at the Royal Technical College. In 1898 he left Glasgow and after a short time with an analyst in Manchester he went as research assistant to Prof. Senier at Queen's College, Galway. From there he was awarded an 1851 Exhibition Scholarship which enabled him to study in Germany under Prof. Tollens at Göttingen and at the Laboratory for Vegetable Physiology in Paris. Goodwin then returned, first to Manchester to carry out research in organic chemistry under Prof. W. H. Perkin, jun., and then to Göttingen, where he was awarded the Ph.D. degree. His long career in agricultural chemistry then began. After a few months as lecturer at Harper Adams College, he was appointed in 1907 to succeed Sir John Russell as head of the Chemistry Department at Wye College, Kent. Four years later he became principal of the Midland Agricultural College, Nottingham, a post which he held for eleven years; in 1922 he returned to Wye College as advisory chemist, where he remained until his retirement in 1938.

In addition to his advisory work, Goodwin made substantial contributions to research in many branches of agricultural chemistry, but particularly in the field of crop protection. He was also well known as an examiner and for his translations into English from the German of Kellner's "The Scientific Feeding of Farm Animals" and Barthel's "Methods used in the Examination of Milk and Dairy Products". At the time of his death, Dr. Goodwin was one of the oldest members of the Chemical Society.

He leaves a widow and two daughters.

R. L. WAIN