

for the establishment of the liaison committee of that conference, from which developed the present British National Committee.

Wedmore communicated a number of papers to the Institution of Electrical Engineers and he was awarded several of the major premiums of the Institution, namely, the John Hopkinson in 1915, the Institution Premium in 1918, and the Kelvin in 1929.

Wedmore was reticent in nature and somewhat austere in appearance. He was, however, under the surface, very human and generous and sympathetic to any in real trouble, and he had a deep sense of loyalty to colleagues. It is a tribute to Wedmore's insight and ability that he should have built up, as a pioneer, a successful co-operative research organization with little to guide him other than his own shrewd judgment and initiative. J. GREIG

THE death of Mr. E. B. Wedmore has removed a well-known and greatly respected personality from bee-keeping circles. Despite his heavy professional responsibilities when director of the British Electrical and Allied Industries Research Association, Mr. Wedmore managed to find time to practise bee-keeping, to which he applied his scientific training and research experience. Since his retirement a few years ago, beekeeping research had occupied an increasing proportion of his time and he was always eager to discuss new results and ideas and to help beekeepers and research workers in any way that he could.

In 1944 the Beekeeping Standards Committee of the British Standards Institution was formed, and Mr. Wedmore was the natural choice for its first

chairman, a position he held with great distinction until his death. He also served on other committees of the Institution which dealt with the standardization of honey tins, honey jars, etc.

For many years Mr. Wedmore was a member of the Apis Club, several county beekeepers' associations and of the British Beekeepers' Association, of which he was president in 1946. He was, for some time, chairman of the Research Committee of the British Beekeepers' Association, and was an active member of the Council of the Bee Research Association since its formation in 1949. He was responsible for a number of the Association's researches which were carried out with the co-operation of beekeepers, notably on methods of management of colonies and on queen introduction.

He was also interested in establishing better standards for honey in Britain, and his re-examination of earlier work on the chemical and physical properties of honey led to new tables relating refractive index to water content. Further papers on the accurate determination of the water content of honeys were in preparation at the time of his death.

Mr. Wedmore's books, "A Manual of Beekeeping" and "The Ventilation of Bee-Hives", together with his booklet, "Successful Bee-keeping", will undoubtedly continue to be used by beekeepers for many years to come.

Although rather shy and reserved, Mr. Wedmore gave much time to helping other beekeepers by lecturing and in other ways. His lectures contained a great deal of original, constructive thought. He was always willing to reconsider his own views in the light of new work and was foremost in efforts to encourage beekeepers to do the same.

C. G. BUTLER

NEWS and VIEWS

Linnean Gold Medal : Prof. W. H. Lang, F.R.S.

THE award by the Linnean Society of London of the Linnean Gold Medal to Prof. W. H. Lang will be regarded with much satisfaction by botanists, and especially palaeobotanists, throughout the world. Although in the earlier part of his scientific career his attention was mainly directed to the Pteridophyta and Bryophyta, he later concentrated on investigation of early Devonian plants. During the time he taught in the University of Glasgow his contacts with Robert Kidston inspired him with an interest in palaeozoic plants and led to that fruitful collaboration with Kidston in the description of the Devonian plants found in the Rhynie Chert in Aberdeenshire. The results of this investigation, published in the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh* between 1917 and 1921, have had a profound influence on our ideas about the evolution of vascular plants, perhaps more than any other palaeobotanical discovery of this century. Prof. Lang has made many notable contributions to our knowledge of the morphology of the Pteridophyta and, after collaboration ceased with Kidston's death in 1924, he has continued to investigate early Devonian plants and has shown that important information can be obtained from apparently unpromising and fragmentary plant remains. In collaboration with Dr. Cookson, of Australia, he described the Silurian plants which are found in Australia, the earliest

indubitable land plants. His published work, like that of Kidston, has always been marked by meticulous attention to accuracy and he rarely, if ever, makes a statement about a plant which is not clearly demonstrated by photographic reproduction. He has carefully avoided entering the field of speculative morphology, to which the discovery of the Rhynie plants added such a potent stimulus.

Pure Mathematics in the Imperial College, London : Prof. W. K. Hayman, F.R.S.

DR. WALTER K. HAYMAN, reader in analysis at the University of Exeter, has been appointed to a newly created University chair in pure mathematics at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London. Dr. Hayman is a brilliant mathematician with an international reputation in his own field, and the value of the contributions which he has made in this field has been recognized by his election at the early age of thirty to a fellowship of the Royal Society. Since graduating in 1946, he has published a number of papers, largely concerned with the behaviour of the maximum modulus of an analytic function which satisfies certain specified conditions. Perhaps the most striking of his results relate to the celebrated conjectures of Bieberbach and Wiman. On one hand he has proved that, if a given function $f(z) = z + a_2z^2 + \dots$ is schlicht in $|z| < 1$, then Bieberbach's conjecture that $|a_n| \leq n$ does hold for