

He was a modest man of great courtesy and as a bachelor he led a quiet and simple life. On his retirement in 1952, he went to live with friends in south-east London, where he found great pleasure in gardening and some of the domestic arts. He retained one link with radio, for he continued to serve in a personal capacity on the Ionospheric Communications Committee of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, where his knowledge of short-wave circuits was invaluable. When he attended the meeting on March 29 he was obviously failing in health, but it came as a shock to hear a week later that he had died within a few hours of being taken suddenly ill.

His unique knowledge of propagation conditions was of a kind that was difficult to commit to paper. He wrote comparatively little, and with his passing the world of radio has suffered a great loss.

G. MILLINGTON

Dr. G. E. Foxwell, C.B.E.

GEOFFREY EDWIN FOXWELL, who died on April 26 after a short illness, was born in 1892. He obtained his early education at the Hinckley Grammar School and at All Saints' School, Bloxam. His first appointment in science and fuel technology was as a junior chemist with the Koppers Coke Oven and Bye-Product Co. of Sheffield, where he soon showed ability well above the average. In 1916, at the early age of twenty-four, he became coke oven manager to the Alloa Coal Co., but later returned to the Koppers Company as chief chemist. During this period his energy and drive were such that he took the B.Sc. degree of London and later gained the D.Sc.

degree for outstanding work on the plastic state of coal.

In 1924 Foxwell was appointed senior research chemist to the Gas Light and Coke Company in London, but remained only a short time before again returning to the Koppers Company as chief technical officer. He finally left full-time service with that Company in 1932, though retained for a time as consultant, to move to London to take up various professional activities. These activities included a close association with Clayton, Son and Co., of Leeds, gas and constructional engineers, and considerable work in technical journalism. His articles were always clear, interesting and informative, and it was in this field that he excelled.

Foxwell's interests were by no means narrow. During the Second World War he was successively vice-chairman and chairman of the British Chemical Plant Manufacturers' Association, and a member of the Fuel Efficiency Committee of the Ministry of Fuel and Power. He was also editor, and author of several chapters, of the book, "The Efficient Use of Fuel", first published in 1944 by H.M. Stationery Office. A founder member of the Institute of Fuel, he served on the Council of the Institute continuously from 1942 and was president during 1951-53. He was a prominent member of the Committee on Air Pollution under the chairmanship of Sir Hugh Beaver. He was made C.B.E. in the Birthday Honours List of 1955. His outside interests included the chairmanship of the Epsom Sports Club and he was an active player of cricket to the end.

Foxwell never spared himself. He was thorough and painstaking in whatever task he undertook, and always friendly, helpful and considerate.

A. PARKER

NEWS and VIEWS

Civil Aircraft Research and Development, Ministry of Supply :

Mr. J. M. Gray

MR. J. M. GRAY retired from the post of director of Civil Aircraft Research and Development with the Ministry of Supply in April 1957, after thirty-five years in the Government Service. He was born in Lairg, Sutherland, in 1896, and after serving in the R.N.A.S. and R.A.F. for three and a half years in the First World War he entered the University of Glasgow, where he graduated in engineering, including aeronautics as a special subject. In 1923 he joined the Airworthiness Department of the Royal Aircraft Establishment and was engaged in assessing the structural and aerodynamic qualities of aircraft designs, both military and civil. He assisted in preparing and compiling the first editions of the well-known aircraft handbooks *A.P.970* and *A.P.1208*. The latter was eventually absorbed in "British Civil Airworthiness Requirements", now issued by the Air Registration Board. Mr. Gray also assisted in instituting the Approved Firms Scheme in conjunction with the Resident Technical Officer Organization, which he supervised until 1931. During that period he produced a "Handbook of Aerodynamic Calculations" for the use of the Department and resident technical officers.

In 1931 he was transferred to the Air Ministry. During his first year there he initiated and developed

new methods for the more rapid checking of performance estimates for tender designs. These methods were afterwards published in the "Handbook of Aeronautics". After a further brief posting to the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Mr. Gray was recalled in 1937 to the Air Ministry to assist the newly appointed director of Civil Aircraft Research and Production. During the War he was, until 1944, concerned mainly with the development of equipment and installations for military aircraft and he headed a mission to the United States to investigate progress of these items in that country. In 1944 he headed a small section in the Ministry of Aircraft Production, set up to co-ordinate the development of post-war civil aircraft and associated equipment. During this period he acted as technical adviser to the Brabazon Committee. He accompanied Lord Winster's delegation in 1946 as technical adviser, to take part in the South Pacific Air Transport Council in New Zealand, which was in the process of setting up the British Commonwealth Pacific Airlines. During the latter part of his career he was closely associated with the development of civil transport aircraft for the Airline Corporations, such as Britannia, Comet and Viscount.

Mr. H. Templeton

MR. H. TEMPLETON has been appointed to succeed Mr. Gray. He was born in 1914. After taking a