

abroad. He had unusual powers of analysing a complex situation and giving his opinion in precise and graphic terms. This, coupled with his retentive memory and his liberal outlook, made him particularly effective in committee. During the whole of his professional life, he was an active member of the learned societies appropriate to his interests. He served two terms on the council of the Royal Institute of Chemistry and was chairman of its Manchester and District Section; he was a founder-member and past president of the British Association of Chemists and did a great deal of work to forward its interests with which he was greatly in sympathy. He was on a number of committees of the Textile Institute and the City and Guilds of London Institute, most of them concerned with technical education and professional status. The Textile Institute made him an honorary life member and awarded him the Institute Medal: the City and Guilds made him a special award of its insignia. The Society which made the strongest claims on his attention was the Dyers and Colourists, of which he was a member of council for many years and in the varied activities of which, local and national, he played a very special part. He held the Research Gold Medal of the Dyers' Company, the Society's own Gold Medal and was a honorary life member, and its president in 1950-51. One of his last public activities was as a member of the inter-society committee which organized the celebration of the Perkin Centenary. His former students, part-time and university, were widely scattered throughout the textile processing and allied industries in responsible positions, and during his later years he had many tokens of their gratitude and esteem.

On his retirement from academic life, he became technical adviser in Manchester to the Dyestuffs Office of the Board of Trade, and his wide knowledge of the dye-making and dye-using industries, with his many personal connexions in both, enabled him to give further valuable service to the tinctorial interests of Britain. For it he was made a member of the Order of the British Empire in 1959. In the past few years serious illness curtailed his activities; but on all occasions possible he attended at his office until final retirement in 1961.

He lived to see the Department that he founded increase greatly in size, equipment and numbers with the expansion of the College itself. He leaves behind many pleasant memories in all those who were his friends and associates.

H. A. TURNER

#### Mr. W. G. Kendrew

THE death on April 4 of W. G. Kendrew will be deeply regretted by climatologists and meteorologists throughout the world. For more than fifty of his seventy-seven years he took a great interest in climatology and his name soon became a household word in climatological circles. At Oxford, after taking a pass degree, he joined, in 1909, the teaching staff of St. Catherine's Society as classical don and eventually also as dean.

But Kendrew's main inspiration sprang from geography, in which in 1910 he gained with distinction the certificate and diploma. Geography at Oxford was then under Prof. A. J. Herbertson, who had transported personally to Britain the ideas prevalent in Germany on world climatic belts and

regions. It is probable that Kendrew was impressed by public criticisms of Herbertson's speculative global schemes (1912), such as the desirability of 'avoiding' wherever possible sharp boundaries to thermal zones; of using accumulated and extreme temperatures rather than averages; of taking account of rainfall and of evaporation, particularly from the human body. In any event, Kendrew turned to the more quantitative study of the climates of individual areas, and on these and climatic principles he lectured and tutored, with breaks for War service, from 1912 until 1950, the last ten years as reader in climatology.

Whatever he said or wrote reflected his classical leaning and his geographical enmeshment. It was highly intelligible, carefully and concisely phrased, and geographically rather than meteorologically applied; his use of quotations and his translations from foreign texts were brilliant; his technique of providing, prominently, but not too disruptively, a simple statistical basis to climatic phenomena inspired confidence. Consequently, the general public and the non-specialist student found his expositions attractive and most helpful.

His earlier climatic writings appeared in Herbertson and Howarth's *Survey of the British Empire* (1914). Within eight years these regional accounts had been extended to all the land-masses and *The Climates of the Continents* began its long career. The book aimed at filling a gap caused by the lack in English of any adequate description of the actual climates of the countries of the Earth, considered regionally. It was hailed as 'a pioneer work of its class' and of great value as bringing together in one volume a vast amount of information. A fifth edition, considerably revised and enlarged, appeared in 1961 and to date about 30,000 copies in all have been sold.

In the meantime, Kendrew, although well aware of the existence of several excellent works on the subject, compiled *Climate* (1930), a systematic account of the general principles of climatology treated mainly from a geographical and distributional point of view. A leading British meteorologist welcomed, *inter alia*, the valuable chapter on humidity and temperature in relation to the human body and thought the volume very readable and probably the best and then most up to date of its particular scope and purpose. What was virtually an extensively rewritten third edition appeared as *Climatology* in 1950 and was revised in 1957.

On retiring from Oxford, Kendrew worked for some years in Canada for the Government, in rewriting for general use the detailed reports by specialist investigators of climatic conditions in parts of that country. In 1955 the results, *The Climate of Central Canada* (with B. W. Currie) and *The Climate of British Columbia and the Yukon Territory* (with D. Kerr), evoked warm appreciation for the readily available data, the condensation of a vast mass of statistics, and the undoubted suitability for the general public of the illuminating and invitingly readable narrative.

Kendrew will long be remembered as an outstanding advocate and exponent of climatology, but his practical qualities should not be ignored. From 1935 until 1950 he directed the Radcliffe Meteorological Station at Oxford and he was a life-long connoisseur of weather and skyscapes. Partly in pursuit of climatic experience, he travelled widely, and for him there was always, besides meters and gauges, the human recorder, if possible in the form of Wilfrid George Kendrew.

R. P. BECKINSALE