To combat this situation, a systematic and massive programme of refresher courses is required. Such a programme could be provided in the long vacations at selected universities and technical colleges and, because of its close liaison with these academic institutions and with industry, the Institute would be well placed to administer it for chemists.

Finally, the Institute proposes to devote a proportion of its funds to assisting the teaching of chemistry in the developing countries, especially the newly independent countries of the British Commonwealth. Help that might be given includes the provision of symposia and refresher courses for teachers, the secondment of teachers from the United Kingdom, and the provision of all kinds of visual aids and of programmed learning techniques.

By acting as a pioneer and 'pump-primer' in the ways suggested in this article, the Institute feels that it can best exercise its function as an independent professional body in promoting the development of chemical education and ensuring an adequate supply of properly trained chemists to meet national needs in the United Kingdom and in the developing countries of the Commonwealth.

Further details about the proposals are contained in an appeal booklet available from the Royal Institute of Chemistry, 30 Russell Square, London, W.C.1.

OBITUARIES

Sir Ronald Hatton, C.B.E., F.R.S.

Sir Ronald Hatton died on November 11, 1965, in his eightieth year at his home in Benenden, Kent.

On leaving Balliol College, Oxford, he went to the South Eastern Agricultural College, Wye, Kent, and soon afterwards became a member of the horticultural staff there. Later he was transferred to the newly established Wye College Experimental Station at East Malling, where he assisted Wellington, the first director. After the First World War, Hatton was appointed director and remained so until his retirement in 1949. Under his guidance, despite numerous financial difficulties, the Station rapidly developed and attained a world-wide reputation. During the formative period he was whole-heartedly supported by the fruit industry of the United Kingdom and a devoted staff. When he retired he had the satisfaction of knowing that horticultural science was fully recognized as an essential service to the fruit-growing industry.

Hatton's own research in the 'twenties on rootstocks was a major turning-point in fruit culture. There were then wide variations within the same orchard in tree size and fruit quality: Hatton aimed at obtaining uniformity in both, and his research resulted in a series of rootstocks which imparted to the scion standardized growth characteristics. This was a major, if not the major, development for fruit culture throughout the world. Order was created out of chaos, for his work made possible a planned pattern for orchards and prepared the way for future trends in orchard practice, including, in particular, extensive mechanization. As a result, orchards of the future will be planted for high yields at the lowest possible costs.

Although pomological research remained his great interest, Hatton was fully alive to the importance of developing at the Research Station ancillary subjects such as plant physiology, applied entomology, plant pathology and statistics.

His delightful and friendly personality inspired confidence and was a constant stimulus to everyone, both in the Station and outside. His staff were known as "Hatton's boys" and there was among them a wonderful productive team spirit. His appetite for work was enormous and he was never satisfied that enough progress had been made. Perhaps his only fault—a forgivable one—was that he failed to realize anyone grew older, and although he knew that progress must require additional staff, he dreaded the Station expanding beyond a scientific "family circle".

Among his many achievements was the major part he took in the establishment of the Imperial Bureau of Fruit Production at East Malling, of which he was consultant director. His interests went far beyond his own Station: he was generous-minded to all and he had innumerable fruit-grower friends, who took his advice because it was so forward-thinking and practical. Undoubtedly there was in him a most happy blending of science and horticultural technology, which plays such a big part in the well-being of a crop research station. The fruit-growing industry will for ever owe a great debt of gratitude to Sir Ronald Hatton.

H. G. H. Kearns

Prof. E. J. Dijksterhuis

In 1924, Eduard Jan Dijksterhuis, an obscure mathematics teacher in the Tilburg secondary school, published a book, *Val en Worp*, sub-titled "Contribution to the History of Mechanics from Archimedes to Newton", which was actually a summary of all that history could tell on this subject at that time, written by somebody who was obviously a master in this art.

Although the history of mathematics had flourished in The Netherlands for many years around the monumental work of editing Christian Huygens's works and the discovery and publishing of Isaac Beekman's journal, Dijksterhuis as a historian was an autodidact. He had attended the secondary school in Tilburg, where his father was the principal. Then, in order to be admitted to a university, he prepared for the final examination of a grammar school; this he passed after one year, at the age of seventeen. Still considered by his parents to be too young to study at a university, he spent one more year at home, during which he immersed himself in the classics, with which he had fallen in love during the preparations for his examination. Nevertheless, at the University of Groningen he chose his older favourite, mathematics, as his major subject. In 1918 he gained a doctor's degree for a thesis on a geometrical subject. Meanwhile, he had already taught at a Groningen girls' school, but in 1919 he agreed to fill a vacancy at the Tilburg school where he had been a student. This commitment did not end until 1953, when he was appointed a professor extraordinary in the history of mathematics and exact sciences at the University of Utrecht; from 1954 he also held an equivalent post at the University of Leiden. From 1960 until his retirement in 1963 he was a professor ordinary at the University of Utrecht.

From his marriage in 1920 with Johanna K. E. Niemeyer until his departure to Utrecht in 1953 he lived in the lovely Brabant town of Oisterwijk. In this rustic climate he matured as a scholar, and he wrote the greater part of his work. But he did not lead a retired life. For many years he was a 'privaat-docent' at the Universities of Amsterdam and Leiden—an activity which was interrupted by the Second World War. He played a great part in commissions on the teaching of mathematics and mechanics, and from 1934 until 1958 was a member of the Government Education Council (Onderwijsraad). For nearly a quarter of a century he was an honorary secretary to the most outstanding Netherlands literary periodical, *De Gids*. But, first of all, he was admired as a lecturer because of his firm grasp of the subject and the easy command of the language in which he expressed his thoughts.

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