

His *Val en Worp* was followed in 1929–30 by his commentary (in Dutch) on Euclid's *Elements*. His *Archimedes* was written before the War; its English translation appeared in 1956. In 1943 his *Simon Stevin* appeared, and in 1950 the best known of his works, *De Mechanisering van het Wereldbeeld*, was published; the latter has been translated into German and English. Besides these books, he published a large number of papers, lectures and addresses on historical, educational and philosophical subjects. His longest-lasting activity was that of chairman of the Royal Netherlands Academy Commission on the Edition of Works of Simon Stevin, which still met at his home when he had lost his speech and had to rely on gestures to conduct its meetings.

Educated people, and above all scholars of the humanities, were struck by his style. He abstained completely from metaphors, puns, oratorical and dramatic effects, and from any choice of words that would excite emotions rather than thoughts. He was a lover of art and poetry, but in his own work he never gave way to the spell of rhetoric. He put his thoughts into a form which matched their contents, and above all matched his character. He wished to grip the reader by the subject rather than by the form—though just for this reason it was the form which fascinated.

For his *De Mechanisering van het Wereldbeeld* he was awarded a high literary honour; he was a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences, a bearer of the Karl Sudhoff Medal of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Medizin, Naturwissenschaften und Technik, the George Sarton Medal of the American History of Science Society and many other honorary awards.

H. FREUDENTHAL

Prof. R. H. Hopkins

PROF. R. H. HOPKINS, who was formerly Adrian Brown professor of brewing and applied biochemistry in the University of Birmingham, died recently after a short illness at his home in Bournemouth, aged seventy-four.

His association with Birmingham was a long one, as he graduated in 1910, after which he gained experience in various analytical laboratories. He returned to the University towards the end of the First World War and became assistant to the first professor of brewing, Prof. Adrian Brown.

He became a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry in 1918, and served on the Council for two periods.

In 1920 he took up an appointment in the Department of Chemistry of the Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh, and

was in charge of courses in malting and brewing and biochemistry. In 1926 he was awarded an M.Sc., and in 1928 a D.Sc. of Birmingham. When the Adrian Brown chair of malting and brewing fell vacant in Birmingham, his record and qualifications rendered him a very appropriate candidate, and he was appointed in 1931.

Hopkins always, and rightly, insisted that the biochemical principles on which the art of malting and brewing rested were of fundamental importance, and he strongly resisted attempts to isolate the School of Brewing. He was able to maintain the dual nature of the Department as a School of Brewing and Department of Industrial Fermentation, later of Applied Biochemistry. There is little doubt that without this steady pressure over the years there would have been no Department of Biochemistry as it exists to-day.

He was primarily a man of academic interests, but he combined this to a very unusual degree with a knowledge and appreciation of the technical processes and problems involved in malting and brewing. This is clearly demonstrated in the large number of papers which he contributed to the *Journal of the Institute of Brewing*, the *Biochemical Journal* and other journals of a more technical nature. There is scarcely any fundamental aspect of malting and brewing which he failed to deal with in his publications.

A topic which held his sustained interest over a number of years was the nature of starch and the complex amyolytic actions involved in its breakdown. He did much to bring order and clarity into a field of research where confusion reigned, and his claim to recognition will doubtless be confirmed in future perspective.

He directed a team of research workers in the Department under the aegis of the Institute of Brewing from 1934 until 1950, when it became absorbed in the Brewing Industry Research Foundation in Surrey. During the Second World War he sponsored work by the teaching staff on the qualitative and quantitative aspects of vitamins in beer. Most of the water-soluble vitamins came under scrutiny, and the large and useful amounts of riboflavin which occurred naturally in the beverage were reported for the first time.

He was a frequent participator in symposia and congresses throughout the Western world, and made several lecture tours of the United States.

His other interests included a deep appreciation of many branches of music, and he was particularly fond of holidays in the mountains and by the lakes of the Continent. He will be missed by a host of colleagues, students and friends.

F. W. NORRIS

NEWS and VIEWS

European-American Committee on Reactor Physics

DR. V. RAJEVSKI, head of the Reactor Physics Department at the Ispra Joint Nuclear Research Centre of Euratom, has been elected chairman of the European-American Committee on Reactor Physics for the next 2 years. Dr. Rajevski succeeds Mr. Peter Munnery of the Atomic Energy Establishment, Winfrith, U.K. At the same time, Dr. H. Kouts, of Brookhaven National Laboratory, has been elected scientific secretary of the Committee in succession to Mr. E. Critoph of Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd., Chalk River. The European-American Committee on Reactor Physics is a group of fifteen reactor physics experts from member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, and Euratom (nine from Western Europe, three from the United States, one each from Canada, Japan and Euratom). It was set up in 1962 by the Steering Committee of the European Nuclear Energy Agency,

which recently confirmed its mandate for a further 4-year period. The work of the Committee consists of reviews of national programmes in reactor physics, periodical examination of research on selected topics, and exchange of information on new research results. The Committee also advises on priorities for new research activities.

Analytical Chemistry in the National Bureau of Standards: Dr. David H. Freeman

DR. DAVID H. FREEMAN recently joined the Analytical Chemistry Division of the Institute for Materials Research at the National Bureau of Standards. His work will be concerned with the prediction, control and reproducibility of analytical separations, and he will deal especially with the relationships between chemical specificity and the structure of ion-exchange derivatives of synthetic organic copolymers. Dr. Freeman was formerly an assistant professor at Washington State University, where his