

# OBITUARY

## ARTHUR GELDART HODGSON

Arthur Geldart Hodgson (G. 1928, A.M. 1930, M. 1957), who died suddenly in his office on the 16th November 1962, was born on the 13th October 1901. He was educated at St. Paul's School and the Royal Technical College, Glasgow, and was apprenticed with the Macfarlane Engineering Co., Glasgow, whom he subsequently represented in London. He joined the engineering staff of Allen West and Co. in 1925, held various appointments in this company and was appointed London manager in 1949.

He was a man of great professional ability, particularly in matters relating to electric control, and his approach to life will be remembered for his deep love of his home and all that it stood for. His interests were wide. He was a devoted churchman and a lover of music, particularly church music. He served for many years as a special constable, he was an accomplished model maker, and he was an enthusiast for 'old-time' dancing, for which he held several awards. He is survived by his widow. H. F. B.

## JOHN MUIR DONALDSON

John Muir Donaldson, M.C. (S. 1896, A. 1898, M. 1912, H.M. 1949), President of the Institution in 1931-32, was born on the 21st October 1877 and died on the 14th January 1963. For his integrity of mind and character, for his many achievements and for the example he gave to others, he will be remembered by many. He was educated at Whitgift School, at Finsbury Technical College and at City and Guilds College. After three years with the British Thomson-Houston Co. he went to the General Electric Co., Schenectady. In 1906 he became technical assistant to E. T. Ruthven-Murray of the Northmet Power Co. He served in the King's Royal Rifle Corps from 1914 to 1918, was wounded at the Battle of the Somme and was awarded the Military Cross. Appointed chief engineer of the Northmet Power Co. in 1920, by his pioneer spirit he showed great courage. He was a firm believer in 'Whitleyism', and as a consequence industrial relations in the company were based on that principle. Prominent in industrial relations in the industry, he was a member of the National Joint Board and the National Joint Industrial Council.

He installed the first 33kV open-type outdoor switchgear station in 1926. He then decided that a new generating station at Brimsdown should be completely pulverized-fuel-fired, with a separate mill house. One of the 31500kVA alternators was designed by Parsons to generate at 33kV, and it still does. It was the first of that size and type in Britain. Donaldson desired his technical staff to be trained in the field: a joiners' course on cable craftsmanship was put into being, an electrical apparatus test and repair centre was created, and the meter and instrument laboratory was and is an accepted hall-mark in this sphere. The parallel operation of generating stations was in his view an economic step; and several stations, both municipal and company owned, were operated in association with the Northmet system. This was before the Grid was in being. In the late 1930s he decided that the use of high-pressure/high-temperature boilers would result in better thermodynamic performance, and so Loeffler boilers working at 1900lb/in.<sup>2</sup> (gauge) were installed at Brimsdown. Then boilers using the Lamont principle of forced water circulation were commissioned at Willesden. The first electrostatic dust and grit collector was erected at that station. In 1923, for coal handling, he had installed a suction plant using air as the carrier.

A bachelor, he had many interests apart from being a general manager. He was a prison

visitor and an active member of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society and was instrumental in rehabilitating several. He was a Governor of Christ's Hospital and a Governor of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. For ten years he served as chairman of Beddington Female Orphanage. In 1947-48 he was Mayor of St. Albans. In all this service, freely given, he was a man beloved by all who knew him closely and above all one with a humble and faithful love of God.

He became a member of Council in 1923 and was elected a Vice-President in 1927. He served on the Court of Governors of the Benevolent Fund from 1947 to 1949 and on the Museum Committee from 1949 to 1953. He was awarded a 1st Student premium in 1898, and his paper 'The anticipation of demand, and the economic selection, provision and lay-out of plant (power systems)' was published in the *Journal* in 1929. W.N.C.C.

## LEOPOLD ROMERO

Leopold Romero (S. 1900, A.M. 1910, M. 1927), who was born on the 21st February 1883, died at Nottingham on the 6th August 1962. He was trained at Faraday House under Dr. Alexander Russell, and after some industrial experience with Belliss and Morcom Ltd., Birmingham, joined the Salford Corporation Electricity Department, where he remained until he retired on the 1st April 1947. He progressed from the position of mains engineer to that of chief engineer and manager in 1927. He took a leading part in the pioneer work of interconnecting the Manchester and Salford electricity systems by a 33kV cable link. This was discussed in his paper, written jointly with J. B. Palmer, entitled 'Interconnection of a.c. power stations', which was published in the *Journal* in 1922.

He was for many years a well known figure at I.M.E.A. conventions and took an active part in the proceedings. He was chairman of the North-Western Centre of the Institution in 1931-32. His personality was that of a rather shy, naturally courteous man, whose staff held him in high regard as an engineer, a leader and a gentleman. He led a quiet family life, and his outdoor activities included tennis, swimming and fell-walking. He is survived by a son and a daughter. S. R. M.

## NIHAL CHAND SABIKHI

Nihal Chand Sabikhi (S. 1924, G. 1926, A.M. 1935, M. 1953), who died on the 28th April 1962, was born on the 28th March 1899. He had his early education in the Punjab and his technical education at St. Andrews University, Dundee, and at Faraday House. In 1926 he joined the electrical department of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, Bombay. He was first attached to the electric-traction project between Churchgate and Borivili. By dint of hard work he rapidly rose in the department and held with distinction the position of divisional electrical engineer at Dohad, Ajmer and Bombay Central. Promoted chief electrical engineer in 1949, he retired from the railway in 1954. Shortly after retirement, he joined the Amalgamated Electricity Co. as manager and chief engineer and ably managed their powerhouse and associated electric-supply system at Ajmer till his death.

Two important traits of his character were a high sense of loyalty and broadmindedness. He was kind-hearted in his dealings with his staff, who always had a great regard and affection for him. His sociable nature and courteous manners brought him a wide circle of friends. In domestic life he was happy and contented. He is survived by his widow, two sons and two daughters. S. P. T.

## WILLIAM FRANCIS SMITH

William Francis Smith, B.Sc.(ENG.), A.C.G.I. (S. 1918, G. 1926, A.M. 1930, M. 1939), who died on the 7th October 1962 at Rochester, was born on the 14th May 1898. He took an engineering degree at City and Guilds Engineering College, London, after training as a dockyard apprentice at Sheerness and a year in the Royal Flying Corps.

Entering the Post Office Engineering Department in 1924, he was employed in the radio branch, including a period as assistant officer-in-charge at Leafeld Radio Station. From 1932 to 1952 he served at Newcastle, first as power engineer and later as area engineer, and at Leeds, where he was appointed chief regional engineer in 1946. In 1952 he transferred to London as staff engineer of the external telecommunications executive. There was much work on the take-over of radio stations from Cable and Wireless and on the assimilation into the Post Office organization of the world's largest telegraph control centre, Electra House. He retired in 1958.

For many years he controlled a large staff and won respect and regard by his warmly sympathetic understanding and fair dealing. He is survived by his widow and a married daughter.

He served on the North-Eastern Centre Committee from 1936 to 1938 and on the North Midland Centre Committee from 1939 to 1951, being chairman in 1950-51. R. J. H.

## LAURENCE BEDDOME TURNER

Laurence Beddome Turner, M.A., SC.D. (M. 1920), who died on the 28th January 1963, was born on the 6th April 1886 at Charlton, Kent. He was educated at Bedford Grammar School and at Cambridge University, where he was later elected to a fellowship at King's College and where he taught as lecturer and reader for the greater part of his life. Immediately after graduation, Turner did pioneer research work on the strength of materials and gave a clear account of the possibilities of a method of manufacturing cannon barrels which was later reinvented under the name of autofrettage. However, a move to the Post Office as assistant staff engineer turned his attention to wireless, and in this subject he found his life's work. During the 1914-18 War he was engaged on the design of 'short'-wave wireless receivers for the Army, while, in the 1939-45 War, he was concerned with radar equipment for the Navy. In the intervening period his expert knowledge was constantly in demand and he was closely associated with some of the long-wave transmitting stations which were erected in Britain and overseas.

Turner was a delightful colleague and a most modest and unassuming man. Although in the forefront of wireless development over a period of some 30 years, he never aspired to high office and did not wish to lead large teams. He was happiest when working in the laboratory with his own hands and was something of a purist in his research work. He was never satisfied with a piece of equipment until he had measured every characteristic and knew precisely how it would behave under all conditions. His love of accurate knowledge must have exerted a most beneficial influence on the many students who worked under him.

His first wife died in 1928, but he is survived by his second wife and by three sons and a daughter.

He was chairman of the Wireless Section in 1932-33, and of the Cambridge Radio Group in 1945-46, serving on the Committee from 1946 to 1948. His progress review 'Radio-telegraphy and radio-telephony' was published in the *Journal* in 1927, and several of his papers were also published in the *Journal*. C. W. O.