Mr. L. J. Goldsworthy

Leonard James Goldsworthy was head boy of Ripon Grammar School (1910) and won an Exhibition to Magdalen College, Oxford. Here he became a pupil of T. S. Moore and after graduation (1913) carried out research under the supervision of W. H. Perkin, jun. He took part in College laboratory teaching at Christ Church and Queen's College.

At the early age of twenty-four he became professor of chemistry at the Victoria College of Science, Nagpur, but his scientific work and teaching naturally suffered in the early years of the First World War because of his keen attention to military duties. During 1917–20 he saw active service in Egypt and Palestine as an officer of the Deccan Horse, 16th Cavalry, and held several administrative posts. In later years he continued military activities and during 1933–35 was commanding officer of the 6 (Burma) Batt., U.T.C. Still later he served in the Second World War in the Home Guard in Oxford.

During 1917–22 Goldsworthy held various posts as inspector of schools and deputy or assistant director of public instruction, but in 1923 returned to chemical teaching and research as lecturer at University College, Rangoon; he became officiating professor of chemistry in 1931, retiring in 1935.

While in Burma, Goldsworthy held many official advisory posts and, as was ever his wont, did all that was possible to promote the welfare of his students. He was a warden of one of the university halls of residence and a member of the governing bodies of several university colleges in Burma.

After leaving Rangoon he returned to Oxford and undertook research on intermediates in contemplated synthesis of penicillin and other topics related to natural products, as well as more general fields such as the Leuchs synthesis of polypeptides, orientation of substitutions in benzene derivatives and certain molecular re-arrangements of interest in relation to the chemistry of quinamine. Some of this work was unfinished. In 1937 he found that the Leuchs reaction applied to *d*- or *l*-alanine gave a polypeptide similar to that from glycine, very sparingly soluble and of high molecular weight. But *dl*-alanine under the same conditions gave a water-soluble product of a quite different type. The analyses of ester end-groups indicated a low molecular weight, but it was felt that this required confirmation and other interests supervened.

Later he received a University appointment as senior research assistant to the Waynflete Professor. In this capacity his long experience in the East was turned to very good account, and with characteristic unselfishness and generosity he gave invaluable personal help to many beginners in research and to others who encountered special difficulties. Goldsworthy's own technique at the bench was very neat and his practical example most effective. To overseas students in particular he was not only guide and philosopher, but also friend. Many of them enjoyed his hospitality and that of his wife.

After 1955, one of his major interests was the development of gas-liquid chromatography and, though he retired in 1958, he continued to assist the teaching work at the Dyson Perrins Laboratory and delivered lectures in the academic year 1959–60.

He was a man of great personal charm, a most sincere scientist and a devoted teacher. In 1927, he married Rose Cawthorn and there are two sons.

Robert Robinson

NEWS and VIEWS

Royal Society: Medal Awards

The following awards of medals have been made by the President and the Council of the Royal Society: *Copley Medal* to Sir Harold Jeffreys, formerly Plumian professor of astronomy in the University of Cambridge, for his distinguished work in many branches of geophysics, and also in the theory of probability and astronomy; *Rumford Medal* to Dr. A. G. Gaydon, Warren Research Fellow, for his distinguished work in the field of molecular spectroscopy and particularly its application to the study of flame phenomena; *Davy Medal* to Prof. J. M. Robertson, Gardiner professor of chemistry and administrative head of the Chemical Laboratories in the University of Glasgow, for his distinguished pioneering work on analysis of crystal structure, especially of organic compounds; *Darwin Medal* to Mr. E. J. H. Corner, reader in plant taxonomy in the University of Cambridge, for his distinguished and strikingly original botanical work in tropical forests; *Hughes Medal* to Dr. J. L. Pawsey, assistant chief of the Division of Radiophysics of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Australia, for his distinguished contributions to radio astronomy both in the study of solar and of cosmic radio emission.

National Institute of Sciences of India: Awards

At the annual general meeting of the National Institute of Sciences of India held on October 7, the following awards were announced: *Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Gold Medal* 1959 (for applied sciences), to Dr. Atma Ram, director of the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, Calcutta, for his outstanding contributions to the development of technology and creating a science consciousness in the glass and ceramics industry in the country; *Chandra Kala Hora Memorial Medal* 1960 (for contributions to the development of fisheries in India), to Sri Hiralal Chaudhuri, research officer (fish breeding), Central Inland Fisheries Research Station, Barrackpore, for his contributions towards induced breeding in carp.

Mining at Leeds: Prof. J. T. Whetton, O.B.E.

Prof. J. T. Whetton, who has recently retired from the chair of mining in the University of Leeds, has had a distinguished academic and military career. After gaining early mining experience in the Yorkshire coalfield he served in the First World War in France and the U.S.S.R.; in 1919 he was awarded the Military Cross and the Russian Order of St. Stanislav. He resumed his mining studies at the University of