

OBITUARY

R. O. STREET

Reginald Owen Street was born in 1890. After early education at Bournemouth he went to St. John's College, Cambridge, and graduated as a Wrangler with distinction in 1911. He remained in Cambridge for some time, working in the Cavendish Laboratory under Professor J. J. Thomson. He was awarded a Rayleigh Prize in 1913, and in 1920 became a Fellow of his College. During the 1914-18 war, he was commissioned in the Royal Air Force, and was attached to the Meteorological Section of the Air Ministry. After a short period at the University of Southampton he moved to Liverpool, joining the staff of the Department of Applied Mathematics in that University. Here he published a number of research papers, principally on elasticity and on questions in mathematical geophysics, such as tidal theory and the theory of earthquake shocks. He was actively engaged in teaching: his book "Examples in Applied Mathematics" was one outcome of this interest.

In 1934 he was appointed as Professor of Mathematics in the Royal Technical College, Glasgow. At the time, the College was in a period of rapid expansion which led ultimately to its status as an independent university, and in the midst of this there were added all the complications which befell a college of technology in the course of a major technical war. Numbers of students, both full time and part time, were large and constantly increasing; problems of organization were pressing. In all this activity Professor Street took his full share of responsibility. He was a careful teacher: teaching was never abstract, but had in view the needs, the abilities and the limitations of his students. General theory took its due place; but a general theory was of little use to a technologist unless he could apply it to particular instances, and if necessary, use it to produce a numerical result. Professor Street was a member of the Board of Studies of the College, and its Chairman from 1948 till his retirement. This time was marked by many changes in the College, and his administrative abilities had much to do with their success.

He married in 1945 Miss A. E. Taylor, of Cudworth, Barnsley.

He was throughout his life interested in the art and practice of campanology, and rang at Christchurch, at Cambridge and at Glasgow. He was also a knowledgeable philatelist.

After an illness in 1951, he decided to retire from his Chair. He moved to his old home near Bournemouth, and lived there until his death in August 1967.

He was a quiet man, with a strong and uncompromising sense of duty, yet essentially kindly and understanding. He will be remembered by past colleagues and students with respect and affection.

L. M. BROWN