courteously to anyone, especially young people. His wonderful judgement of men and of affairs was the secret of his career. When he wanted something done he could charm whoever he had fixed on to undertake the task, and could see, too, that it was properly carried out.

A strong sense of continuity in things made him set a high value on the history of science. In the early days of the setting up of what is now the Museum of the History of Science at Oxford there were serious difficulties to be overcome. The University Press was reluctant to give up the use of the Old Ashmolean Building, and the Curator of the collections, R. T. Gunter, had the unhappy knack of antagonising both opponents and friends, Hartley was the man to smooth the path towards acceptance by the University of Gunter's use of the building.

Hartley was appointed editor of *Notes and records of the Royal Society* in 1952 and maintained its high standard of output for eighteen years. His portrait by Hinshelwood appears in volume xxvi (1971), 2. He also served the Royal Society as chairman of the British National Committee of the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology, and also of the Scientific Manuscripts Committee. Articles by him on Berzelius, Dalton, Davy, and Ramsay, appear in the Society's publications, and he was entirely responsible for deciding on contributors to the Tercentenary Volume *The Royal Society, its origins and founders* (1960) by his unique method described above: 'I have put you down to write . . . etc.' He always wished he could find time to write more on history, but his *Humphry Davy* and *Studies in the history of chemistry* were left to his old age. As a young don he had collected nineteenth-century books and papers of importance; these he arranged to be taken into the library of the Royal Society. What the Society thought of him will be found expressed in the reference given in the first paragraph of this article.

E. J. Bowen

L. L. Whyte

Lancelot Law Whyte, M.C., died in hospital on 14 September 1972, after a short illness. Lancelot Whyte was a well-known member of our Society, although his interests were perhaps more philosophical than historical. He was born on 4 November 1896, the youngest of eight children of a renowned Presbyterian preacher and religious writer, the senior minister of United Free St George's, Edinburgh. In *Focus and diversions* (1963) Lancelot Whyte gave an amusing description of life in his Edinburgh home. In 1906 his mother sent him to J. H. Badley's 'agnostic and rationalistic co-educational Bedales', as far from Scottish Calvinism as she could. From school at Bedales he went into the army in 1915, and shortly afterwards was sent to the Somme, and later to Arras. In France, as a Lieutenant in the Artillery, he was seriously wounded and was awarded the Military Cross.

After the war Whyte was able to take up a deferred senior scholarship at Trinity College, Cambridge. His interest in the constitution of matter was lifelong, and while still at school he had been introduced to Boscovichean atomism by Rouse Ball. (Note Whyte's *Roger Joseph Boscovich*, published in 1961.) He stayed on at Cambridge to do research in physics under Rutherford's 'wise and severe discipline of complete freedom', and after a period at Göttingen, where he attended the lectures of Bohr, he returned to the Cavendish Laboratory, where he worked with Blackett and Hartree. He was constantly disturbed by war memories, however, and in 1923 he left Cambridge to work in industry.

After further work in physics in Berlin (1928-9) he worked for some years as scientific consultant to the investment bankers O. T. Falk & Co., before, in 1936, recognizing the potential of Frank Whittle's work on the jet engine, he formed Power Jets Ltd. As Chairman and Managing Director he helped Whittle to the first successful test flight in 1941. Whyte then joined the Ministry of Supply as Director of Statistical Enquiries, a post he held until the end of the war. At the time of Munich he had acted on behalf of the Czech government, who wished to evacuate men and equipment to Palestine before the German invasion, but his efforts were unfortunately in vain, the Cabinet fearing that the plan would provoke Hitler to retaliation.

Of more than a dozen books he wrote, only the first two (*Archimedes, or the future of physics* [1928] and *Critique of physics* [1931]) were written before the war. All his works are infused with a conviction that there is 'a pervasive unity, perhaps a hidden tendency towards order and coherence beneath all corruption, disruption, and chaos'. Whyte strove towards a unitary way of representing all formative processes, whether of physics, biology, art, psychology, or whatever. In his *The unconscious before Freud* (1960), for example, he revealed his conviction that history can throw light on current problems, and that the ideas of such diverse characters as Schelling, Carus, and Schopenhauer were more important to an interpretation of Freud than were the more usual studies in terms of academic and clinical psychology. The breadth of his knowledge made him an entertaining lecturer, and in this capacity he visited the United States on very many occasions during the last two decades of his life. As a measure of his transatlantic following, his *The next development in man* (1944) sold most of its 100,000 copies in the United States. Historians of science will remember, among his other writings, the essay which he wrote to follow Colin Hardie's translation of Kepler's *The six-cornered snowflake* (1966). Some of his many essays will be published shortly by his widow Eva (*née* Korner), who also has a number of unfinished manuscripts by him on such problems as that of the unification of all particle fields. Among his numerous writings are reviews in the *Times literary supplement*, to which he was a valued contributor.

J. D. NORTH