

OBITUARY NOTICES.

Richard Anschütz.

ONE of the foremost organic chemists of the latter part of the nineteenth and the earlier years of the twentieth centuries, Richard Anschütz, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry at Bonn, an Honorary Fellow of the Society, died in his eighty-fifth year on January 8, 1937, in his native town of Darmstadt, where he had resided from the date of his retirement from his Chair in 1921. After studying the natural sciences, and chemistry in particular, at Darmstadt, Heidelberg, and Tübingen, Anschütz obtained his doctor's degree in 1874, and in the following year he was appointed assistant to Kekulé, then professor at Bonn. His academic career was thereafter connected continuously with the University of Bonn, where he became successively dozent, extraordinary professor, and ordinary professor, and succeeded in 1898 to the Chair rendered vacant by the death of Kekulé. He was the author of a large number of papers recording the results of researches that extended over a wide range of subjects in organic chemistry and were carried out either by himself or in collaboration with colleagues or pupils. These papers appeared from about 1884 onwards, chiefly in the publications of the German Chemical Society, and in Liebig's *Annalen*. In addition to carrying on his original investigations and fulfilling the ordinary duties of his Chair, he devoted much of his time to literary work, including the production of more than one edition of "Little Beilstein"—a masterly revision, amounting to rewriting, of v. Richter's *Text-Book of Organic Chemistry*—and the writing of a useful monograph on distillation under reduced pressure. He also made various valuable contributions to the historical literature of chemistry. One of the chief of these is his biography with papers, letters, addresses, etc., of August Kekulé, which engaged his attention principally during the years after his retirement. The result of his labour upon this biography was the appearance of two stately volumes that were published in 1929/31, and formed a dignified and worthy tribute to the pre-eminence of Kekulé as an investigator and a teacher. Other publications included a reproduction, in Ostwald's *Klassiker der exakten Wissenschaften*, of Lohschmidt's *Constitutional Formulæ of Organic Chemistry*;

a memorial notice of W. Körner; an account of the Chemical Institute of the University of Bonn; and a publication on the importance of chemistry in the World War. One conspicuous service that Anschütz rendered to the history of chemistry resulted from his interest in the work and publications of Archibald Scott Couper. He first met with Couper's name, about the year 1893, in connection with certain investigations on salicylic acid that he was himself engaged upon, and again, in a more arresting manner, about twenty years later when dealing with Kekulé's position in relation to the recognition of the quadrivalence of carbon and the linkage of carbon atoms. As a result of these contacts, he became intensely interested in endeavouring to gain a knowledge of the origin and personality of this evidently gifted chemist, who had written a number of meritorious chemical papers in the later fifties of the nineteenth century and had then disappeared entirely from further productive scientific activity. By means of inquiries made through chemical friends in Great Britain, Anschütz was put into communication with the late Professor Crum Brown, and, after somewhat prolonged investigations, the efforts of the latter were eventually successful in completely clearing up the obscurity that had for many years surrounded the name and nationality of Couper. An account of this noteworthy inquiry, along with an appreciation of Couper by Anschütz, was published in the Society's *Proceedings* (vol. xxix, 1909, pp. 193-260).

Anschütz was elected to Honorary Fellowship of this Society in 1935.

L. D.