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ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY¹

By Sir HENRY DALE, O.M., G.B.E.

THE annual number of *Obituary Notices of Fellows of the Royal Society*, published to-day, and the names which have just been read to us remind us of the losses the society has suffered.

Allow me first to make brief mention of the last service rendered to the society by one who had long been devoted to its interests, and whose name is among those of the fellows whom death has taken from us during the past year. Sir Henry Lyons, who was our foreign secretary for a year, and then achieved so much for the society in his full term of service as treasurer, had acquired in that period a deep interest in the handling of the society's business and in the changes in its structure and its administration over the centuries of its history. He devoted the last four years of his life, under conditions which must have deterred any less resolute enthusiast, to the writing of a historical account of the administration of the Royal

Society under its charters, and at the time of his death, last August, he was eagerly awaiting its publication, which war-time difficulties had long delayed. This long-expected contribution to our history was published a few weeks ago, and the society will welcome and cherish it, not only as a record of value and interest in itself, but in memory of one to whose devoted labors the society and its fellows owe so much.

A year ago I reported to the society that our biological secretary, Professor A. V. Hill, had left us on an important mission to India. The council of the society, at the invitation of the Indian Government, had nominated Professor Hill to visit India to see its problems for himself, so that he might offer his advice on scientific matters in general and, in particular, on the adoption for India of a new and progressive program of research and enterprise in science and its applications. From all sources—from the Viceroy and the Secretary of State with their official colleagues

¹ At the anniversary meeting, November 30, 1944.

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