

Obituary

EDWARD HENRY REYNOLDS 1915-1979

M.A., B.Sc.(Oxon), C.Eng., F.I.E.E.
C.Chem., M.R.I.C., A.F.Inst.Pet., M.I.E.E.E.



As you will all know 'Josh' Reynolds died at noon on 30th July. He was with friends and his death was sudden and unexpected. He was only in his 64th year.

Edward Henry Reynolds was born in the village of Fownhope near Hereford on 19th October, 1915. After the First World War, the family moved to South London where his father held a teaching post. Josh attended Alleyn's School in Dulwich, and in due course, wishing to enter the same profession as his father, went up to Oxford where he read Science at Oriel College graduating in the Honours School of Natural Science in 1937. Specializing in Chemistry, he under-

took a period of post-graduate research in physical chemistry under D.Ll.Hammick. This involved the study and resolution of optically active complexes formed between polynitro-compounds and aromatic hydrocarbons and bases. A joint paper on the resolution of 4:6:4' trinitrodiphenic acid was published in the Journal of the Chemical Society in 1939.

In the same year, 1939, Josh was appointed Science Master at Stowe School, Buckinghamshire, an appointment which was to be interrupted by the Second World War, when in 1941 he joined the Chemical Inspectorate of the Ministry of Supply as an experimental officer. His experience with nitro compounds was, no doubt, invaluable, as he was to become very much involved with explosives and detonators and with the problems of their quality control by scientific rather than by 'ad hoc' principles.

After the cessation of hostilities, Josh returned to Stowe, but somehow the academic world was no longer to be his orbit despite his undoubted flair for clarifying and imparting knowledge to young and old alike. He ventured into the world of industrial chemistry, at first with a company producing glues and adhesives and then with a firm of industrial consultants Murray, Bull and Company. Here he was to remain from 1947 until the firm closed down in 1952.

It was on Monday, 19th January, 1953 that Josh joined the Research Organisation of the then British Insulated Callender's Cables Limited as Section Leader in the Chemistry Department, then under the guidance of Mr. V.H. Wentworth following the departure of the Chief Chemist, Mr. G.M. Hamilton, for the University of Durban, South Africa.

He very soon settled in and contributed his own personal impact upon the work being carried out on the analytical side of the Chemistry Department. Closer liaison was established with the oil suppliers and fresh emphasis given to an understanding of the chemical nature of the principal dielectric materials then in use, hydrocarbon oils and papers of various types and of the changes which occurred after the prolonged effects of heat and stress in the presence of cable metals such as iron and copper.

In 1956, Josh was promoted to the position of Deputy Research Manager and Acting Head of the Chemistry Department. In the following year he acted as Research Manager of British Dielectrics Research following the departure of Dr. J.B. Birks to Manchester University. It was at this time that work was started on the gassing of oils under electric stress and Josh was actively associated with the work which resulted in the publication in 1963 of the classic paper on 'The Influence of the Constitution of Oils upon their Gassing under Electric Stress'. It was in 1963 also that he was appointed Research Manager of the Research Organisation. This brought with it increased responsibilities for the wide range of investigations then in progress in the laboratories, but despite this Josh retained his active interest in the fields of dielectric phenomena and power cables in general. In May 1967, he embarked upon a lecture tour of New Zealand on the subject of insulating systems for mains cables in order to give "prospective purchasers of power cables a detailed technical description of the various cable types which Associated British Cables Limited of New Zealand would be manufacturing".

In the years that followed, Josh was joint author of a number of papers resulting from investigations in the fields of ionization and radiation effects in dielectric materials, gassing of oils and pure hydrocarbons and the important subject of 'treeing' in polymeric insulation.

He was made General Manager of the Central Research and Engineering Division on 1st June 1972 being at that time already a member of the Chief Executive's Committee of BICC. He retired due to ill health on the 31st January, 1975. During his career with the Company, Josh represented it on several outside technical

committees, in particular the CIGRE Study Committee No. 15 Sub-Working Group "Askarels" and the corresponding ERA Committee of which he was Chairman for a time.

No one could be indifferent in his feelings for Josh Reynolds, he was a very real person with many talents, artistic as becoming one with his nickname and possessing a real gift for the use of words, both in writing and above all in lecturing and talking. He could tell a good story and hold his audience enthralled when recounting his war-time experiences in the Ministry of Supply. He was active in the Athletic and Social Club at Wood Lane and a keen member of the BICC Golfing Society. He was well known to the staff in the laboratories at all levels and many there be that are grateful for his efforts on their behalf and for his encouragement in many different ways. He leaves a wife, two sons and a daughter to whom we express our condolences on their sad and sudden bereavement.

R.M. Black