that this promising young scientist (as he then was) had written a book for children ("The Universe and the Mayonnaise") he exclaimed in disgust, "That is the end." Robertson was wont to be much amused by this story. Twelve years later he published "The Chemical Basis of Growth and Senescence." I wonder if Arrhenius ever read it.

Apart from his scientific writings and his textbooks, Robertson leaves behind other memorials of his active and creative brain. The Darling building at the Adelaide university, the nutrition laboratory, the Australian Journal of Experimental Biology and Medical Science, the animal products research fund, the Medical Sciences Club, the Adelaide University Club, the graduates association—all alike bear lasting recognition of his spirit of chievement.

He was so virile, and so obviously at the height of his activities, that it is difficult to believe that he has really gone. But he has left behind a memory more precious than all the monuments of wood and stone.

Professor T. Brailsford Robertson, D.Sc., of the Adelaide university, died in Adelaide last month, aged 45 years. After a course at the Adelaide university, Professor Brailsford Robertson accepted a position as assistant in physiology at the California university. His interests lay chiefly in biochemistry, and during 1908 he was acting assistant professor of physical chemistry, succeeding two years later to the post of assistant professor of biochemistry and pharmacology. During 1916-18 he occupied the chair in these subjects, and then transferred to the Toronto university as professor of biochemistry. In 1919 he succeeded his father-in-law, the late Sir Edward Stirling, as professor of general physiology in the Adelaide university. In 1926, when the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research was reorganised, Professor Brailsford Robertson was appointed by the governor-in-council as a member of the council and chairman of the South Australian state committee.

A. O. Jaeger, technical director of The Selden Co., manufacturers of chemicals, Pittsburgh, a new converter system has been developed containing as contact mass base-exchange bodies in which vanadium oxides form part of the non-exchangeable nucleus of part of the base-exchange products. This contact mass is reported by the company to be a more effective catalyst than any hitherto described. It does not lose its activity by agglomeration, because the vanadium oxides are in chemical combination sufficiently strong to resist the temperatures that exist during the conversion of SO_2 to SO_3. This new catalyst is covered by patents Nos. 1657754, 1675308, 1675309 and 1694123.

In comparison with platinum as a catalyst, it is claimed that the components of the new contact mass are inexpensive; it is not poisoned or affected even with overload; it needs no special attention; and the average conversion of SO_2 to SO_3 is 98 per cent.

Mention has been made of the heat control of the reaction of converting SO_2 to SO_3: the SO_2 and oxygen generate heat in producing SO_3, and if this heat is not controlled, the reverse action takes place. In the ordinary converter the temperature varies in sudden jumps, instead of smoothly; but in The Selden Co.'s system all of the factors of temperature control required by the thermodynamics of the reaction are, it is claimed, taken into account in the design, resulting in a uniform temperature, something which has not been possible in any previous design of converter. The principal features of this compound automatic heat-exchange converter system are covered by patents Nos. 1660511 and 1685672.

The new contact process is not only applicable to new plants, but it may be installed in any existing plants by relatively minor remodelling; for example, at copper, lead, and zinc smelters, where arsenic and many other substances having a deleterious poisoning action on platinum are abundant. This process, the company claims, is able to make sulphuric acid so cheaply that when diluted to acid of chamber strength, it is cheaper than acid made by the chamber process; and the plant has a flexibility in operation hitherto unknown. The Selden Co. has, within a short time, licensed operating contact sulphuric-acid plants totalling 1,000 tons daily capacity of 100 per cent H_2SO_4, and those under construction total an equal output.

The chemists of the Illinois plant of the Monsanto Chemical Works succeeded a few years ago in developing complex vanadium silicates which are highly active as catalysts for the oxidation of sulphur dioxide. These are known commercially as the Monsanto sulphuric-acid catalyst, and it has certain advantages as compared with platinum. On the score of cost, for example, a simple calculation shows that in the best type of converter, the cost of Monsanto catalyst to handle 50,000 lb. of sulphur a day is about one-fifth of the cost of a platinum-asbestos catalytic mass. If a magnesium sulphate-platinum mass is used, as in a Schroeder-Grillo converter, the difference is even more striking, for the Monsanto catalyst costs less than one-seventh of the platinum one.