

The late Director of the Meteoric Section.

It is with great regret that we record the death, on June 29, of Mr. Walter Ernest Besley. Mr. Besley joined our Association on November 25, 1896. He soon became an active Member of the Meteoric Section and in 1900, on the resignation of Mr. W. F. Denning through ill-health, was appointed its Director. His own resignation from the same cause was announced in the "Journul," No. 7. He took a keen interest in that particular branch of astronomy and regularly published in our "Memoirs" his annual report, besides contributing various interim reports to the "Journal" of the Association. Even these, full as they were, do not represent all the observations that he so diligently got together, financial exigencies on the part of the Association enforcing the adoption of brevity. Mr. Besley was also a member of the Variable Star Section, the Director of which bears testimony to the value of his observations in that Section. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1902.

Papers communicated to the Association.

The Zodiacal Light and the Gegenschein.

By W. MORTON SYKES.

The display was on Friday morning, 14th April. Noticing a very fine definition of the Zodiacal Light at about 4 a.m., I went out to some higher ground to get a better observation, and if possible to get a glimpse of the Gegenschein. I was not disappointed, for at the opposite point of the sky there was an unmistakable dome of faint light, extending up about half as high as, or more than, the Zodiacal Light, which reached to about 45° or 50° . There could be no possible mistake. The line joining the two lay at a fairly broad angle to the Milky Way, and the dark interval between it and the Gegenschein was very clearly marked. There is no town or suburb out west in that direction from which the light could have arisen. I verified the appearance over and over again, and am sure of the fact. There was a conspicuous star near the apex of each, and I am very sorry I did not more clearly observe at the time what stars they were. I write these particulars in the hope that some other member may have seen the display and be able to confirm my impressions.

Croydon, Sydney, N.S.W.,
17th April 1905.