

## OBITUARY.

The Council regret that they have to record the loss by death of the following Fellows and Associates during the past year:—

Fellows :—George Frederick Chambers.  
 Charles Hope Harris.  
 Henry Burdett Hederstedt.  
 George Denton Hirst.  
 Joshua Jukes.  
 Richard Kerr.  
 Raphael Meldola.  
 William Henry Stanley Monck.  
 Sir Andrew Noble.  
 William Ottway.  
 Ernest William Owens.  
 James Simms.  
 John Torrens Stevenson.  
 Henry William Lloyd Tanner.  
 James Francis Tennant.  
 Michael Foster Ward.  
 William Willett.  
 John Woodrow.

Honorary Member :—Lady Huggins.

Associates :—Carl Theodor Albrecht.

Georg Friedrich Julius Arthur Auwers.

Gilbert Defforges.

GEORGE FREDERICK CHAMBERS was born on 1841 October 18, and was the only son of Richard Chambers, M.D., of Wimpole Street, and Cecilia, the youngest daughter of the Rev. A. Brodie, D.D., Vicar of Eastbourne. He was educated for the Bar, and took a considerable part in public affairs as justice of the peace, and member of several local boards, and of the East Sussex County Council and Lewisham Borough Council in turn. He was still more widely known by his writings. Many of these were digests of the laws relating to local administrations, such as county, district, and parish councils; besides numerous brochures on church and political questions of the day. He was also a frequent speaker at political meetings, and meetings connected with the Church of England. But these and many other activities, including those connected with his position as a Parliamentary barrister, did not hinder him from taking a very keen and sustained interest in astronomy. This interest he developed at an early age, and it was fostered by his uncle, Mr. Frederick Brodie, F.R.A.S., who possessed a very efficient equatorially mounted telescope in his observatory at Eastbourne. Here young Chambers made many observations of comets and eclipses, and whilst still in his nineteenth year he conceived the ambitious project of bringing out a general *Handbook of Descriptive Astronomy*. This book

which was published before he was twenty, is too well known to require description; it was exactly fitted to the needs of the small private observatory, and though there were many skilful and enthusiastic amateur astronomers in England at that time, there was no book that fully met their requirements until in August 1861 Chambers brought out his first edition, which met with complete success. A second edition was called for six years later; a third appeared in 1876; and the fourth edition, now expanded to three volumes, appeared in 1889 and 1890.

The *Handbook* was much the most considerable contribution to the literature of astronomy which Chambers made, though he also wrote a number of smaller books which found wide appreciation. *Pictorial Astronomy*, *The Story of the Comets*, *The Story of the Sun*, *The Story of the Stars*, *The Story of Eclipses*, *The Story of the Weather*, were all successful little handbooks. A more ambitious enterprise was his revision of Admiral Smyth's *Celestial Cycle*, but here he lacked the intimate practical knowledge of double-star observation and of double-star literature which could alone have rendered his work of value.

Chambers was a man of many and varied activities and interests. One to which, in later years, he devoted much energy was the collection of what may be termed tourist information in connection with total eclipses of the Sun, and he was pursuing such inquiries with respect to the eclipse of 1916 February 3 at the time of his death. As an astronomical observer his chief interest lay in the field of coloured stars, and he brought out two or three catalogues of red stars, besides acting for four years as Director of the Coloured Star Section of the British Astronomical Association, of which he had been a leading member from its foundation.

Mr. Chambers died on 1915 May 24, in the seventy-fourth year of his age, leaving a widow and five daughters.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society 1864 February 12.

E. W. M.

CHARLES HOPE HARRIS was born at Clare, Suffolk, in 1846. He was the son of a Congregational minister who migrated to South Australia with his family in 1851. At an early age he entered the service of the Survey Department of South Australia, with which he remained closely connected for half a century. He took a prominent part in the survey work connected with the early development of the State, and in later years was recognised as a leading authority in his profession. In 1874 he was entrusted with the trigonometrical survey of the region north-west of Port Augusta, and three years later discovered Lake Harris, which was named after him by Governor Musgrave. At a later date, Mount Harris was named after him "as an offering of regard and esteem" by the explorer Tietkens. He was one of the founders of the South Australian branch of the Royal Geographical Society, and was the author of numerous papers on astronomy, geodesy, and geography published by that and other learned