

OBITUARY.

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

Fellows :—Henry Bridger Adames.
 William Henry Mahoney Christie.
 Frederick John Eld.
 * Frank Flowers.
 Edmond Herbert Grove-Hills (Treasurer).
 George Stewart Hitchcock.
 † Carlton John Lambert.
 John George Lincoln.
 Robert Pearce.
 Andrew Simons.
 Charles Michie Smith.
 Edward John Stutter.
 Clement Jennings Taylor.
 George Lyon Tupman.
 Peter Hately Waddell.
 James Waterhouse.

Associates :—Fritz Cohn.
 Jacobus Cornelius Kapteyn.

Assistant Secretary :—William Henry Wesley.

HENRY BRIDGER ADAMES was born at Chichester, 1882 October 3, and was educated at the Prebendal School in that city.

He became interested in astronomy at a very early age. On leaving school he entered the Royal Observatory, Greenwich; while at the Observatory (from 1901 July to 1902 December) he worked in the Transit Circle Department (Reduction of Zenith Distances).

In 1903 he went to Canada and entered the Montreal office of the Canadian Pacific Railway. In 1909 he returned to England, being engaged, up to the time of his death, as an accountant.

He had many and varied literary and scientific interests; but devoted the greater part of his leisure to astronomy and meteorology.

In astronomy he gave his chief attention during recent years to the systematic observation of variable stars, using a 4-inch equatorial refractor. For many years he was a member of the Variable Star Section of the British Astronomical Association.

He became a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society in 1912, and served for a period on the Council of that Society.‡ He collaborated during the past eight years with Mr. J. E. Clark in the preparation of Annual Reports on the Phenological Observations in the British Islands, which were published by the Royal Meteorological Society.

* Died in 1920, but death not reported till 1922.

† Died in 1921, but death not reported till 1922.

‡ 1916–17 or 1917–18.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in 1913.
He married in 1908 Miss Queenie Moyle of Chichester, whom he had known from childhood.

His death occurred at Ilford on 1922 December 9.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1902 June 13.

Sir W. H. M. CHRISTIE, K.C.B., F.R.S.—Early in the year the Society lost by the death of Sir William Christie one of its oldest Fellows, for he was at the time the ninth in the list in order of date of election. His unobtrusive manner and personality and the fact that he had taken little active part in the affairs of the Society during the last ten years of his life caused him to be unfamiliar to the general body of present Fellows; but it may be said with truth that during the last fifty years no person has had more influence directly or indirectly on British astronomy. For forty years he was an official astronomer, and for twenty-nine of them the titular head of astronomy in England.

William Henry Mahoney Christie was the third son and the eldest child of the second marriage of Samuel Hunter Christie, F.R.S., Professor of Mathematics in the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich from 1838 to 1854, the author of many papers on magnetism, for whom the invention of the method of the bridge in electrical measurements is claimed. The second son of Samuel Christie, James Robert, who was also F.R.S. and on the staff of the Royal Military Academy as First Mathematical Master, was a Fellow of our Society and the author of a book on Practical Astronomy and other works.* The family was originally Scotch, the father of S. H. Christie having come to London in the eighteenth century. The subject of this memoir, whose mother was of an Irish family, whence came his third name, was born on 1845 October 1, and was educated at King's College School, London, and Trinity College, Cambridge, going up to the University in 1864. He was elected a Foundation Scholar of the College at Easter 1866, and achieved the position of fourth wrangler in the Mathematical Tripos of 1868, when the first three places were filled by Fletcher Moulton, G. H. Darwin, and Charles Smith, afterwards Master of Sidney Sussex College.

Christie sat for the Sheepshanks Exhibition in 1866, but was not successful, the exhibition being awarded in that year to Charles Niven, afterwards Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Aberdeen. Airy was one of the three examiners, and on the paper that he set, which was entirely on practical astronomy, Christie was undoubtedly first—showing an intimate knowledge of the adjustment and use of instruments, especially with Greenwich methods. Airy says in his Report: † “Christie is methodical, clear, and practical,” which were qualities that he retained throughout life. Another of the examiners wrote: “Christie is very clear and sensible in what he knows and a very satisfactory examinee.” But he failed in the paper set by Professor Cayley, which was wholly on Planetary and Lunar theory,

* See *Monthly Notices*, 40, 188.

† These Reports are preserved in the Record Room at Greenwich, and have been inspected by permission of the Astronomer Royal.—H.P.H.