

“to no one did warm friendship mean more.” We who enjoyed his friendship during his long presidency of the R.A.S. Club would all subscribe to that statement. The Club could not bear to lose him from the Chair. Even when he became President of the Society itself, in 1901–03, which had in previous instances meant automatic vacation of the Club Chair, it was insisted that he remain our President; and he faced the double responsibility and strain with keen appreciation of the affection so manifested. After he had been twenty-five years President, a special hammer and sounding-board were presented to the Club by one of its members, in honour of the occasion; but Glaisher was still not allowed to resign. After thirty-two years he expressed a decided wish to do so, which, from what we know now, may have had its origin in failing health: but as this valid reason was concealed, the Club insisted on one more year, in honour of which the number of members, formerly thirty-two, was ultimately raised to thirty-three. On the sounding-board, on which the names of successive presidents are inscribed, there was added under Glaisher’s name, by special resolution, the words

*per xxxiii annos Praeses Gratissimus.*

But in spite of his warm affections he never married, so that the name of Glaisher disappears from our lists of Fellows after having had an honoured place therein since 1841, and in the lists of the Royal Society since 1849. From 1871–1903 our lists, and from 1875–1903 the Royal Society lists, contained the names of both father and son. Moreover, for one other year only our lists had the names of James Glaisher (senior) and his brother John, who lived with him at the Cambridge Observatory until he succeeded him in 1836 as the Assistant, when James removed to Greenwich with Airy. In 1845 John Glaisher left Cambridge to become observer to the Rev. J. B. Reade of Stone and Dr. Lee of Hartwell—another link between Dr. Lee and the Glaisher family. In the same year he joined our Society: but he lost his wife only three weeks after marriage, and from that great shock he never recovered. His own death followed within a year. A younger son of James Glaisher, Ernest Henry Glaisher, who followed his elder brother at St. Paul’s School and Trinity, and then went out as Curator of the Museum in Georgetown, Demerara, died many years ago.

H. H. T.

HESTER PERIAM HAWKINS, widow of Mr. Joshua Hawkins, died at her residence in Reigate on 1928 May 18, aged eighty-one. For many years she had lived with her husband in Bedford, where they inaugurated many remarkable public improvements and developments, particularly in connection with housing. Mrs Hawkins’s interests were chiefly religious, political, and social, but she was also very fond of astronomy, and was the author of several small books on the subject, including *The A B C Guide to Astronomy*, which ran through several editions, and *Astronomy for Busy People*. Mrs. Hawkins was a vice-president of the Bedford Women’s Liberal Association, and a lifelong supporter

of the temperance movement. A deep piety characterised her thought and writing. She is survived by all her children, three sons and three daughters.

She was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1921 January 14.

THOMAS HUMPHRIES was born in London in 1841, the eldest son of Dr. E. L. Humphries, who, having previously visited New Zealand as a ship's surgeon, in 1850 brought his wife and family to live there. The voyage was made in the 600-ton barque *Sir Edward Paget*, and took more than a hundred days. The family settled in New Plymouth, where Thomas Humphries went to school. In 1857 he entered the Survey Department as a cadet. In these days there were no horses in New Zealand, and all survey work had to be done on foot. He took part, both as a surveyor and as a combatant, in the Maori Wars of 1860-61, and later received a commission in the Militia. From these days commenced his interest in rifle-shooting, for which he won many prizes; on one occasion he tied for the championship belt.

By dint of systematic study Humphries quickly made a mark for himself as a surveyor, and rapid promotion followed. He filed a number of posts, until finally, in 1906, he was appointed Surveyor-General of the Dominion. He retired three years later, after fifty-two years' service.

He was particularly interested in the astronomical side of surveying, and wrote a text-book on the subject, which is still used by students. In addition to astronomical work in connection with the survey, such as the determination of the longitude difference between Wellington and New Plymouth, which he carried out in conjunction with the late Dr. Adams, Humphries took part in the observations of the transit of Venus in 1882 and the total solar eclipse of 1885. Up to within a few years of his death he continued to set mathematical problems for the Australasian Survey examinations.

His interests were many and varied, and included sports, music, and church work. His faculties remained keen despite his advancing years, and he died in his eighty-seventh year, at Lower Hutt, Wellington, on 1928 August 30. He is survived by his widow, with whom he had celebrated his diamond wedding, and by a son and a daughter.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1921 March 11.

WALTER CLAUDE JOHNSON was one of those successful business men who, to the great advantage of the Society, have been attracted to its fellowship, though they may not have had time for serious astronomical work. The attraction was partly due to his friendship, through residence on Blackheath, with the Greenwich astronomers and through them with their friends; and partly to his keen and varied interests in collecting, which led to his acquiring a number of telescopes and other astronomical instruments.

A very beautiful sundial which had been long in his possession was presented by his heirs to the Lewis Evans Collection at Oxford, and very gratefully received. Some of his telescopes also became gifts to