

He eventually became head of the department of mathematics and astronomy and Director of the Observatory.

He was a man of general scientific interests. In 1884 he served as secretary to the United States Electrical Commission, which held an exhibition that year in Philadelphia. In the same year he suggested the establishment of a national bureau of physical standards, and sixteen years later he saw this idea materialise when the National Bureau of Standards was established.

He died on 1932 September 28.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1901 November 8.

EDWARD WELDON, who for a large part of his life was the head of a firm engaged in the wholesale textile trade in London, was born in the neighbourhood of Greenwich 1860 March, the proximity to the Royal Observatory provoking an interest in astronomy in his early years that led him later to procure a 5-inch equatorially mounted telescope for inspecting the principal objects of the heavens. About the year 1900 he removed from Blackheath, taking his observatory with him, to Tunbridge Wells, where he interested himself in local public affairs, especially education and the conduct of the hospitals, retaining his connection with these when he settled in a small estate near Bexhill twenty years later. He was a cultured man of somewhat reserved disposition, with a taste for pictorial art that he was able to gratify. He died on 1932 February 6, leaving a son and two daughters, all of whom are married.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1897 February 12.

H. P. H.

EDWARD TURNER WHITELOW died at his home at Birkdale, Southport, 1932 November 4, at the age of seventy-eight.

He was born at Elland, in Yorkshire, 1854 November 1. As a youth he was eminently studious, with strong leanings towards science and languages. Professionally he became a civil engineer, with headquarters at Manchester, trading in textile and other machinery, particularly with China and the Far East. His business activities also embraced the work of a patent agent. He was an excellent linguist.

Astronomically Mr. Whitelow was active to the last, although increasing physical weakness had prevented his using the telescope systematically for about a year. In his early days he possessed various instruments, but finally, on his retirement from business more than twenty years ago, he erected an observatory at Birkdale, in which he housed the  $7\frac{1}{8}$ -inch Alvan Clark equatorial refractor which originally belonged to the Rev. W. R. Dawes, but which afterwards passed into the hands of George Knott and Henry Pratt. Mr. Whitelow's work with this fine instrument consisted at first of double star observations, respecting which he maintained a connection with Burnham. In later years he devoted himself almost entirely to the photography of sunspots and small active areas on the solar surface. In this regard he derived much help and inspiration from Dr. Janssen at the Meudon Obser-