

The Rev. JOHN THOMAS WINDMILL CLARIDGE was born on 1854 September 16 at Stewkley, in Buckinghamshire, but lived his early years in Birmingham. After school days he became a divinity student at Queen's College in that city, where he graduated, and continued his studies later at Trinity College, Dublin, from which foundation also he obtained the degree of B.A. in 1883, and M.A. eleven years later. He was ordained Deacon in the Diocese of Worcester in 1878, Priest in 1879, and held curacies successively at Kingsbury, North Warwickshire and Cressage, Shrewsbury. From the latter position he was transferred in 1889 to Upton Cressett, Bridgenorth, where he was Rector until 1891, and then held the posts successively of Curate of Tamworth (1891-1903), of Swadincote, Burton-on-Trent, and of St. Mark, Winshell, Burton-on-Trent. He was appointed Vicar of Garthorpe, Melton Mowbray, in 1911, where he remained until his death.

John Claridge showed interest in astronomy from his youth, and it is family tradition that he made a creditable map of the heavens when only twelve years of age. Early in his clerical career he obtained an excellent 4-inch refracting telescope that he used for general inspection and examination of the objects of the sky, especially the Moon, but published no results of his observations beyond what might be contained in the occasional notes he contributed to the press. Mr. Claridge's aim was to create and sustain interest in astronomy locally, and to this end he wrote articles on current events, which were generally more than simple announcements, in the Melton, Grantham, and Birmingham journals. His local reputation may be inferred from the fact that on the occasion of the Newton bi-centenary celebration at Grantham in 1927 he helped with the arrangements. He was a member of the Selborne Society, and lectured much in connection with that organisation as well as in other capacities. He was a member of the British Astronomical Association and also of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

Mr. Claridge was unmarried. He died, after a short illness which necessitated an operation, on 1935 September 14.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1894 June 8.

H. P. H.

WILLIAM SADLER FRANKS was born at Newark on 1851 April 26. During the early part of his life he was occupied in his father's business at Leicester, but he soon exhibited a preference for pursuits of a mechanical and scientific nature. At first chemistry and electricity claimed his chief attention; but a glance through a friend's telescope turned his thoughts towards astronomy, and it was not long before he had an instrument of his own, mounted in a small home-made observatory of the Berthon type. After satisfying his curiosity by a little general star-gazing, Franks soon settled down to systematic work, choosing the study of star colours as his line of research. The first fruits of this work took the form of a "Catalogue of the Colours of 3890 Stars," which was communicated to the Society on his behalf in 1878 by the Rev. T. W. Webb. His interest in this branch of work persisted throughout his life, though he was otherwise occupied for a