of the South Shields Marine School in 1886 May, a post which he held for fourteen years. He was for several years a member of the South Shields Education Committee, and took a prominent part in various local activities.

He died at Chapel House, Westoe Village, South Shields, on 1936 April 26.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1901 January 11.

By the death of GEORGE FORBES the Society loses one of its oldest Fellows. He had a varied history as traveller, war correspondent, inventor, electrical engineer and astronomer. His most important work was the part he took in the power-station of Niagara. Astronomers are indebted to him for an admirable life of David Gill.

George Forbes was the second son of James David Forbes, a physicist well known for his discovery of the viscous motion of glaciers. He was born in Edinburgh on 1849 April 5, where his father held the Chair of Natural Philosophy. He was educated at St. Andrews, when his father in 1859 became Principal of the University, and later at Christ's College, Cambridge. He was awarded an *ægrotat* degree in the Mathematical Tripos of 1871 owing to illness at the time of the examination. From 1872 to 1880 he was Professor of Experimental Philosophy at Anderson's College, Glasgow. In 1874 he took part in one of the expeditions organised by Airy to observe the Transit of Venus. He accompanied Captain (afterwards Colonel) Tupman, who was in charge of the expedition to Honolulu. Forbes left Honolulu on November 5 to take charge of a station at Kailua, on the island of Hawaii. He successfully observed the Ingress of Venus on December 8. He had a narrow escape of his life in a gallant attempt to save the life of a colleague while they were bathing in a heavy surf. From Honolulu he went to Pekin, and in the course of an adventurous journey across the desert of Gobi and through Siberia was able to secure the release of a pair of Siberian exiles from Irkutsk. In 1877 he acted as the *Times* war correspondent with the Russian army in Asia in the Russo-Turkish War. He had great difficulties in getting the necessary permission, but in the end succeeded and had the honour of wearing his war correspondent's badge on the Ribbon of the Order of St. George. A very interesting account is given by him in the *Times* for 1930 February 20 and 21.

Towards the end of his period at Anderson's College, in conjunction with Professor Young he determined the velocity of light by a slight modification of Fizeau's method. They found the velocity of blue light was 1 per cent. greater than that of red light, but afterwards admitted that this result was not reliable (*Phil. Trans.*, **173**, 231, 1883).

For the next twenty years Forbes was an electrical engineer. Like many other engineers he worked at the improvement of the dynamo, and showed a machine of his design at the Philadelphia Electrical Exhibition of 1884. In 1890, under the Chairmanship of Lord Kelvin various firms were invited to submit schemes for the utilisation of the falls of Niagara for the production and distribution of power. Forbes proposed polyphase current of low frequency. Direct current was, however, decided upon, but Forbes was