also for the inspiration he infused in others. In 1922 he was given the Cullum Gold Medal of the American Geographical Society and in 1928 the Victoria Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society for research.

In 1888 Reeves married Grace Eden Harley and died at his home in Reigate on 1945 October 17, survived by his widow, son and daughter.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1896 April 10.

FRANK ROBBINS was born at Holloway, London, on 1860 November 23. He attended the City of London School. He entered the service of the Corporation of the City of London, becoming, in course of time, one of the four gas examiners for the City. This position he retained until he was some years beyond the usual age of retirement. He lived all his life in London, and only left, in 1941, when compelled by ill-health. He died at Chard, Somerset, on 1945 May 4, at the age of eighty-four.

Early in life he became interested in analytical chemistry and astronomy. At first his astronomical interest seems to have been of the popular kind, but curiosity as to the way in which sailors find their way at sea led him to begin the serious study of mathematics. In earlier years he appears to have confined himself to those branches which have a direct bearing on astronomy, but he gradually extended his study to other branches, giving special attention to those methods that lead most readily to numerical results. About 1885 he sent to the *English Mechanic* a question concerning a passage in Herschel's *Outlines of Astronomy*. To this, R. T. A. Innes replied and offered help. There resulted a warm friendship and a regular correspondence, usually at weekly intervals, which lasted until Innes died in 1933. Robbins regarded his association with Innes as the outstanding influence of his life.

Robbins was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1890. He was most regular in attendance at the meetings, and acted as Auditor in 1922–26. The great advantages of membership were a frequent theme, and he lost no opportunity of introducing suitable persons to the Society. He joined the British Astronomical Association in 1926, and served for some years as Treasurer (1927–31) and then as Vice-President (1931–32). In 1930 he was co-opted a member of the Mathematical Tables Committee of the British Association: he rendered much help, especially in reading the proofs of the series of volumes which were published between 1931 and the outbreak of war in 1939. He attended the meetings of the International Astronomical Union in 1925, 1928 and 1935.

On retiring, at the age of seventy, from his work in the City, he took, without the break of even a single day, an honorary position as observer at the University of London Observatory, Mill Hill, and thus realized, in some measure, his early ambition of becoming a professional astronomer. In order that he might be available at any hour of the night he took a lodging in a nearby house, and used to assert that he had never missed making an observation by failing to reach the Observatory in good time. Among his various duties was the demonstration of the instruments to members of the public. In this he showed a high degree of toleration for the inanities of some of the visitors, though it may be doubted if he ever succeeded in suffering fools gladly. Occultations were his chief study while at the Observatory; an account of which is contained in the *Monthly Notices*, **98**, 428, 1938. When he had to give up his work at the Observatory he did so with very great regret.

The literary output of Robbins consisted of about twenty papers of a total length of some 150 pages. These appeared for the most part in the *Monthly Notices* and in the *Journal of the British Astronomical Association*. Among them are reviews, biographical articles—mainly of the gold medallists of the R.A.S.—and papers in which astronomical difficulties are discussed and elucidated. His first paper, on the "Ephemeris of Eros" (*M.N.*, **60**, 612, 1900), was a work of great labour, and typical of his computational zeal and ability. A table entitled "Factorials and Allied Products with their Logarithms" appeared in the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*, 1917. A

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