

astronomy, but also in his other hobbies of the authorship of Shakespeare and economic suggestions. Above all, he was a rugged individualist.

Apart from his theories and technical lectures to Universities and scientific societies, Gifford will always be remembered in New Zealand as the great peer of popular writing and lecturing. When bound into booklet form, his newspaper articles, "In Starry Skies", make one of the finest elementary textbooks available, and it is a pity that they were not produced in proper book form after careful arrangement. As a lecturer he could be guaranteed to fill the largest halls in Wellington and keep his audience enthralled for two hours or more; and he would lecture anywhere, to schools, clubs, or the general public, no matter how inconvenient it might have been for him.

Charles Algernon Gifford was a member of all the major astronomical societies: The Royal Astronomical Society, the British Astronomical Association, the Astronomical Society of France, the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. He was a past president of the Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand and a pioneer of the Wellington Philosophical Society in its early years. He established the Wellington College Observatory, containing a 5-inch Zeiss refractor and at one time had the title of Associate of the Dominion Observatory, Wellington.

He was elected to the Society on 1915 January 8.

I. L. THOMSEN.

RICHARD FRANCIS TURNEY GRANGER was born at Nottingham on 1900 February 7. He was educated at Rugby and became in time a Director of R. Granger and Sons, Lace Manufacturers, of Long Eaton.

It was the daylight comet of 1910 that fired his interest in Astronomy and on leaving Rugby a 12-inch reflector was on loan to him from his school for several years. His main scientific interest, however, next turned to Meteorology and in 1921 he read a paper on "The Physical Structure of Cloud Form in the Lower Atmosphere" before the Royal Meteorological Society, of which he was a Fellow. Considering that further research would necessitate flying he started to design his own aeroplane and by 1930, with the help of his brother, built and put into the air not merely an aeroplane but a tailless aircraft. That the design was almost identical with that of the latest German jet-fighter in the recent war shows that his ideas were well ahead of the times. He retained his interest in cloud formations to the end.

Astronomical activity revived in 1935 when an observatory with a 6-inch reflector was built, followed by the construction of a 10-inch reflector. He joined the British Astronomical Association and became a member of its Variable Star Section to which he contributed most promising observations.

On the outbreak of war he volunteered for the Royal Air Force but owing to age was debarred from operational flying and served as flying-instructor and later as test-pilot at the Royal Aircraft Establishment. On an experimental flight undertaken for meteorological reasons he had a serious crash and it was as a result of injuries then received that he eventually died on 1948 January 19.

After demobilization he had brought his observing equipment into first-class condition and was hoping to embark on photometric and other studies in spite of certain disabilities forced on him by his accident; there is little doubt that