

extreme pains to achieve it, he was apt to be intolerant of others who would not take even a fraction of the trouble he took himself. It was perhaps this unduly critical attitude, generally well justified factually, which led to some difficult personal relationships. His own standards were so high that he must often have been disappointed in the casual reception accorded to work on which he had devoted so much time and thought. His thoroughness in everything he did was well illustrated by the help and encouragement he so generously gave to all, particularly amateur astronomers, with computational problems. Like others he occasionally found his efforts rewarded with what appeared to him as ingratitude, and when this happened it hurt him very very much. He was a formidable opponent and a staunch friend. He was quick to quarrel, but ready to make it up—provided the other fellow made the first approach. Proud, sensitive, apt to be suspicious, patient in enduring severe physical handicaps, sometimes very impatient in smaller matters, often childishly simple and naïve, on occasions unbelievably tortuous, generous (often to the verge of quixotism), sometimes a hard bargainer, lovable, but at times oh! so exasperating, tactless, and blunt, and above all outstandingly competent in his own field (to the exclusion of normal interests) and painstakingly thorough in all things, Comrie's personality has been indelibly printed on the memories of those who knew him; and he has left his own memorial in his great services to Computational Science, in his revision of the *Nautical Almanac*, and in the firm which he founded.

He was twice married; firstly, in 1920, to Noeline Dagger of New Zealand, and secondly, in 1933, to Phyllis Betty, daughter of the late H. D. Kitto of Whiteshill, Stroud, Gloucestershire (and sister-in-law to the present writer). There is one surviving son of the first marriage and one of the second.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1919 December 12 and served on the Council from 1929 February 8 to 1933 February 10.

In preparing this Obituary Notice of a man with whom I, like others, have quarrelled, made it up, and learned to love and respect, I am indebted to Mr D. H. Sadler for the passage quoted. Mr Sadler has also supplied a description of H.M. Nautical Almanac Office at the time that "L.J.C." (as Comrie was designated among his friends and colleagues) joined it. I have drawn freely on other Obituary Notices and in particular on those of J. C. P. Miller (*Nature*, **167**, 14, 1951 January 6) and by J. G. Porter (*Journal B.A.A.*, **61**, 132, 1951 April). The information given of the war work of Scientific Computing Service Limited is extracted from a booklet issued in 1950 by the firm.

W. M. H. GREAVES.

PETER DOIG, for many years Editor of the *Journal of the British Astronomical Association*, died on 1952 October 13 after a painful illness. He was born in Glasgow in 1882, and served his apprenticeship as a draughtsman with the Clydebank firm of John Brown. His subsequent experience in America and at Belfast led to an appointment in Shanghai, and it was here that he suffered that serious illness which was to leave him with a painful physical disability. Returning to England in 1918, he was appointed General Secretary of the Association of Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen, and continued in this post until 1945. His last years were clouded with many periods of illness, but he continued with his editorial duties almost until the end. He is survived by his widow and a married daughter.