

several European observatories. His hope was to develop and modernize solar observational work at Stonyhurst. Good progress had been made on the construction of a spectroheliograph, when he was again appointed Rector. This renewed appointment, of which there is only one other instance in the long history of the College, lasted until 1938. Thus ended his long connection with Stonyhurst. In the early years of the war, while again tutoring Jesuit students in London, he was also engaged in high-altitude wind researches for the War Office. In spite of poor health and failing sight he continued his teaching work almost till his death in his eightieth year.

To those who knew only Fr O'Connor's enthusiasm for astronomy this account may depict a life of scientific frustration. Yet one had only to meet him in his later years to realize that a less frustrated man would be hard to find. He had a finely integrated character, at once humanist, scientific and religious. He had many interests, and what is rarer, many competences, and seemed to know how to bring the accuracy, severity and specialization of science to all his activities without detriment to their proper genius. An occasion comes to mind when he was called to drill a hastily composed choir for the plain-song of the "Tenebrae" service of Holy Week. If his demands and expectations seemed rather high, yet his occasional demonstrations of "what he wanted"—little masterpieces of interpretation in a beautifully controlled tenor voice—left his choir no doubt that they were in good hands. He gave one the impression of being not merely on top of his work but in charge even of his enthusiasms; he was always more than the sum of his interests and enthusiasms. He brought to everything a personal charm and gaiety as well as a strong will and uncompromising standards. The writer, who studied mathematics under him and assisted him in his meteorological work, can say that his only fault, if fault it was, lay in expecting his students to work as hard as he did! His astronomical work, and indeed his whole life's activity, was of that anonymous kind associated with teaching and administration. He did not mind this; he enjoyed working with and for other people.

Fr O'Connor became a Fellow of the Society on 1914 January 9. He died on 1954 February 23 after a short illness.

P. J. TREANOR.

ROBERT FERMOR RENDELL was born on 1873 October 14. He was educated at the Roan School and from 1892 to 1903 was a computer at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich. He left Greenwich to become First Assistant at the Durban Observatory. However, he was a man of strong religious convictions, ever an active church worker and in 1907 he relinquished his astronomical position to enter the church. He took orders, became Curate at Barrow-in-Furness and later the Rector of Brightlingsea, Essex. He was married and had one son and two adopted daughters.

He became a Fellow of the Society on 1896 February 14 and died on 1954 April 18.