His death took place under exceptionally sad circumstances, as he was accidentally drowned at Bacton-on-Sea on the 14th of August 1902. He will be remembered by a large circle of friends, who admired his professional ability and appreciated his kindly and unselfish character.

Otto Hilger was born in Darmstadt on the 20th of January 1850, and when quite a young boy was apprenticed to his father, who was Master of the Mint in that city. After finishing his apprenticeship he went to Frankfort and worked as a mechanical engineer with his elder brother Adam. In 1868 the two Hilgers went to Paris, where they started a workshop and obtained work for the Observatory. Being German subjects, they were obliged to leave Paris at the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war. They came to London, and Adam Hilger became foreman with Mr. John Browning, Otto being employed by the same firm. Five years later Adam Hilger commenced business on his own account as astronomical and optical instrument maker, and took his brother into his employment. In 1888 Otto Hilger was appointed by Lord Blythswood to take charge of his private laboratory, where, under Lord Blythswood's directions, he was engaged in constructing an engine for ruling gratings, when he was compelled, in 1897, on the death of his brother, to return to London and take charge of the business.

Mr. Hilger died on December 18. He leaves a widow and three children.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on the 8th of February 1901.

George Darley Lardner, second son of the Rev. Dionysius Lardner, LL.D., D.C.L., F.R.S., by his first wife, Cecilia Flood, was born in Dublin on the 21st of August 1818. Dr. Dionysius Lardner probably did more than any other man in the first half of the nineteenth century to advance the cause of education. His high mathematical attainments, combined with the unusual lucidity and ability with which he explained applied mathematics and mechanics, gave him a power in education which has seldom been equalled in that branch of knowledge. But his genius was versatile ; all knowledge fascinated him, and, not content with writing many valuable works on various scientific subjects, he produced his celebrated *Cabinet Encyclopædia* in 133 volumes, in which he was assisted by the most prominent men of the time in literature and science.

So brief a reference to his distinguished father is due because George Darley inherited many of his gifts, but none of his ambitions. If he had not read very high mathematics, he had mastered sufficient to enable him to take great interest in astronomy, and was able to explain phenomena in clear and simple language. He had even a greater love than his father had for general literature. Possessing a good memory and a

knowledge of both French and German, he was a fund of information to his friends and the most charming companion, a good conversationalist, and no mean "raconteur." The most unassuming of men and lacking his father's ambition, his great abilities were reserved for his official duties and for those who knew him, or whom he could benefit by them.

Educated first at a school at Epsom, Surrey, he went to Paris, where he studied for the medical profession in the French University. While in Paris he was offered a commission in the Commissariat Department of the British army. Having no predilection for the medical profession, he readily accepted it, and was sent to the Cape of Good Hope, where he served on the frontier. From the Cape he went to New Zealand and took part in the first Maori war, receiving the medal. He married at Auckland, New Zealand, in 1841, and returned home some years later. He served in Ireland, and then for many years in the West Indies and Honduras, and, during his last appointment at Barbados in the sixties, was head of his department in the Windward and Leeward Islands. He again served in Ireland during the Fenian troubles of 1865 and 1866, and he retired on a pension after thirty years' service, in 1868. After his retirement from the army Commissary-General Lardner occupied his leisure in literary and scientific pursuits, and was never happier than when he was engaged in preparing for and delivering to juvenile audiences lectures on astronomy and physics. He compiled and printed for private circulation a text-book on elementary astronomy. Both mentally and physically he was in full activity when he was suddenly called away without illness on the 14th of January 1902, in his eighty-fourth year. He was elected a Fellow of the Society on the 8th of February 1895. By his first wife, Mary Macintosh, who died in 1870, he had two children, who both survive—William George Lardner, of Hove, Sussex, and Mary Ann, married to Colonel R. H. Vetch, C.B., R.E. His second wife, Emily D. Clarke, is also living.

[For the above particulars the Council is indebted to Colonel R. H. Vetch.]

The Rev. THOS. WILTSHIRE, M.A., D.Sc., &c., was born in London on the 21st of April 1826, and was through his mother a descendant of the ancient family of Pomeroy of Berry Pomeroy, in Devonshire. As he was a delicate child he was never sent to school, but educated by a tutor at home until he was of an age to attend King's College, whence in due course he proceeded to Trinity College, Cambridge, where in 1850 he graduated as Senior Optime. He was ordained deacon in the same year by the Bishop of Rochester, and subsequently priest by the Bishop of London in 1853. He held his first curacy at Riddings, in Derbyshire. Being prohibited by his medical attendant from living in a climate obviously unsuited to him, he came to London, and for