

He was elected a Fellow of the Society 1867 December 13, having been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in the same year.

J. L. E. D.

JAMES LIDDERDALE SCOTT, son of the late Andrew Scott, was born in Edinburgh in 1848. At the age of twenty-one he joined a mercantile firm in Shanghai, and continued to live there until a few weeks before his death. At the age of forty, though a very busy man, he commenced the study of astronomy. Having carefully surveyed the various fields of work, he decided to devote such time as could be spared to the measurement of double stars. To this end he secured a 5-inch Grubb refractor, and, in spite of frequent interruptions through illness, made many valuable measures, which he sent to the British Astronomical Association. His later measures have been published in the *Monthly Notices*. These observations of southern doubles came at a most opportune time, and Mr. Scott, finding that he could do good work with his 5-inch, was anxious that it should be in the direction most needed. In 1906, being on a visit to England, he obtained a good working catalogue, and the results of his measures on his return to Shanghai appeared in the *Monthly Notices*, 1908 April. Mr. Scott did not live to see their publication, for, leaving China early in 1908, he succumbed to an illness, dying on board ship on April 16, at the age of sixty. He married, in 1881, Margaret, eldest daughter of F. Maclean, of Shanghai, who survives him. There was no issue.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society 1891 June 9.

WILLIAM H. E. THORNTHWAITE was born 1850 June 26, at Alwyn Place, Canonbury, N. His practical ability in the art of optical science was manifested at an early age, and while serving in his father's workshop he produced some excellent work. He was not merely a master of his trade, but a practical and even eloquent exponent of it, being possessed of the happy gift of imparting knowledge and of interesting students in details. To these advantages he added a genial manner and a persuasive tongue. He was for twenty years a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers, and finally Master. In this position he brought his influence to bear in furthering and completing the scheme initiated by the guild for the technical education of rising opticians. In 1897-8 he was Chairman of the Board of Examiners, and so highly were his services appreciated in this capacity, and in his zeal for the scheme in general, that his fellow Liverymen of the Spectacle Makers' Company, and a large number of members of the optical industry, joined in presenting him with an equatorial telescope made by Sir H. Grubb. This instrument he lent to the Northampton Polytechnic, where it is much appreciated. Mr. Thornthwaite was also a keen entomologist, and possessed a representative collection of British Lepidoptera. At the time of his death, which occurred suddenly on 1908 June 1, he was Chairman

of the Gresham Life Assurance Company, a position formerly held by his father. He was also a skilled musician. He was widely known and respected, and the news of his sudden death was received with feelings of deep regret. He leaves a widow and one son.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society 1875 February 12.

THOMAS WEIR was born at Greenock in 1843, and educated at the Highlanders' Academy in that town. He was trained as an engineer with the Greenock Foundry Company. He afterwards came to England and was for some time manager in an engineering firm, subsequently joining the staff of the Vulcan Boiler and General Insurance Company, in whose service he remained till his death.

From his youth Mr. Weir was an ardent student of science, particularly of astronomy, which became his hobby and monopolised most of his spare time. He was one of the original members of the British Astronomical Association, and acted as Honorary Secretary of the North-Western Branch from its inception till it was merged in the Manchester Astronomical Society, of which he was elected the first honorary member.

Mr. Weir joined the solar eclipse expedition to Vadsö in Norway in 1896, and also that to Plasencia in Spain in 1900. On both occasions he made some excellent drawings and diagrams, which were used to illustrate several interesting and instructive lectures he delivered in and around Manchester.

In 1902 Mr. Weir was overtaken by paralysis, and, never recovering his strength, was compelled to relinquish the active part he had taken in furthering the interests of the science to which he was so devoted. After a long and painful illness, he gradually sank and died on 15th February 1908, in the sixty-fifth year of his age.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society 1899 February 10.

WILLIAM EDWARD WILSON was born in 1851, and was the only son of Mr. John Wilson, of Daramona, Westmeath. In consequence of delicate health he was educated at home, and soon evinced a taste for astronomy. He took part in the Expedition to Oran to observe the total solar eclipse of 1870 December 22, and the following year he set up for himself a private observatory in his father's grounds at Daramona. This he equipped with a 12-inch reflector by Grubb. In 1881 he erected a larger observatory, which contained a fine and well mounted reflector of 2-foot aperture. A physical laboratory and a mechanical workshop were added in 1889, and in 1891 the telescope was remounted and furnished with electric control for astronomical photography. With this he obtained a great number of astronomical photographs, amongst which may be specially mentioned the great nebula in Orion, the annular nebula in Lyra, the spiral nebula in Canes Venatici, and the globular cluster M 13 in Hercules. All these, with several