

PAUL WYNYARD FAIRCLOUGH was born in South Australia in 1852. During the early sixties he went with his parents to reside in New Zealand at the time of the gold rush there. Educated for the purpose in Sydney, he entered the ministry of the Methodist Church in 1872, and served in that capacity in New Zealand with conspicuous success for forty-three years, occupying various posts of honour therein. He was eventually elected President of the Wesleyan Conference in 1897. These positions were conceded to him not because he sought them, but because of his personal gifts and fitness. For several years he held the office of editor of the denominational paper. He was a man of distinct individuality. In all departments of intellectual activity he manifested a keen interest. He excelled on the platform as well as in the pulpit. His oratory was clear, thoughtful, and convincing. On Imperial questions Mr Fairclough was ever in great demand, and responded with masterly eloquence. Astronomical circles were always enriched by his presence and activities, and he was ever ready to serve them with well-prepared and up-to-date contributions. He was one of the Vice-Presidents of the Dunedin Astronomical Society, which owes much to his administrative wisdom and guidance. Several of his papers on scientific — mainly astronomical—subjects were read before the philosophical societies of New Zealand, and some of these appear in the *Transactions of the New Zealand Institute*. Mr Fairclough was unexcelled as a writer of monthly astronomical notes, and he rendered a signal service to our science in that way alone. His love for astronomy was a genuine passion. As a writer and speaker Mr Fairclough's style was incisive, clear, penetrating, epigrammatic, and was often marked by rich humour. His very appearance roused expectations, and none were disappointed in him, though he was often reticent and reluctant to reveal himself. His stalwart manliness, his kindly and practical interest in those whom he believed in and could help, together with his scorn of littleness, drew to him all who were privileged to know him. He quietly passed away on Wednesday, April 18th, shortly after an operation upon which heart failure supervened, leaving his widow (formerly Miss Aiken, of Canterbury), one daughter, and three sons to mourn their loss.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1900 January 12.

[The Council are indebted for the above notice to Rev. B. Dudley.]

ALEXANDER FOOTE was born at Rosehill, Forfarshire, in 1850 August, and died at Newland House, Bath, on 1917 June 6. After leaving Trinity College, Oxford, where he took honours in Moderations, he entered for the Bar, but his great love for music led him to abandon the law as a profession, and he spent some time in Italy in the study of music. Returning to Scotland in 1873, he joined the Royal Company of Archers, the King's Bodyguard for Scotland. A serious illness having left him in poor health, he was unable to take any very active part in public affairs, and

during many years he spent most of his time upon music, including the composition of songs, pianoforte pieces, and anthems. He was also very fond of poetry, and took a keen interest in theological questions.

He had always been interested in astronomy, and about the year 1900, while residing at Earl's Court, he procured a portable telescope, and took up the serious study of the subject, with some assistance from Professor Fowler and Mr. W. Shackleton. He was especially attracted by celestial spectra, for which he used a Zöllner star spectroscope and an objective prism. In *Knowledge* for 1903 he gave a very useful description of the spectra of several of the brighter stars as seen with his small outfit. He also made spectroscopic observations of the Sun, making use of a small polar heliostat, which he afterwards presented to the Society.

After settling at Lansdown, Bath, in 1906, he built an observatory, equipped with a 3½-inch Cooke equatorial. He was also provided with a 5-inch telescope having an altazimuth mounting, a 4-inch comet-seeker, and some smaller instruments. So far as his health permitted he continued to make observations, and derived enormous pleasure from what he was able to do. In the hope of encouraging the study of astronomy Mrs. Foote has generously lent the observatory and two of the smaller telescopes for the use of the pupils of the Royal School for Officers' Daughters.

In 1880 Mr. Foote married Alice Mary Robertson, who died in 1889, leaving him with two sons. In 1892 he married Janet Margaret Wilkinson, and had one daughter. His eldest son is engaged on Government work in Mexico, and the second son is in command of a destroyer in the Royal Navy.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1900 May 11.

JOSEPH ALFRED HARDCASTLE was the eldest son of Maria Sophia, the third daughter of Sir John F. W. Herschel, who married Mr. Henry Hardcastle, son of Mr. Joseph Alfred Hardcastle, M.P., in 1865. He was born on 1868 August 27, and was educated at Harrow, where he was head of the Modern side and won the Neeld Gold Medal for Mathematics in 1886. He further distinguished himself as a school-boy by passing the examination for the Indian Civil Service, but of this success he did not take advantage. He went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, in the same year (1887), but owing to family reasons left the University in 1888, and, proposing to follow a business career, learnt the art of brewing. In 1890, unfortunately, he was attacked by the complaint from which he suffered for the remainder of his life, and had to spend many winters abroad, in Egypt (where he worked in a bank at Alexandria), Switzerland, and Italy. In 1897 he returned to Cambridge with the hope of taking a degree, but ill-health compelled him again to leave the University without this being accomplished. In 1899 he married Theresa Selina Clive, youngest daughter of Sir Edward Clive Bayley, K.C.S.I.,