

retired from business, and gave a large part of his time to religious work among the Plymouth Brethren, to which body he belonged, also to lecturing and temperance advocacy. But he had also a great love of mechanical and scientific study, and his delicate health encouraged such sedentary pursuits. He wrote an important series of letters on the testing of paraboloidal mirrors to the *English Mechanic*, Nos. 887, 890, 894, 899, 902, 907, 911, 962, 1078, 1089, 1129, the dates ranging from 1882 April to 1886 November. The Rev. C. D. P. Davies, in his paper on the same subject (*M.N.*, 69, 355), refers to them as "the fullest and best description hitherto published," alluding especially to his admirable device for controlling the size of the illuminating aperture.

Mr. Wassell married a daughter of the late William Willder, Esq., of Gnosall, Staffs, who survives him. There was no issue of the marriage.

He died at Oldswinford on 1918 July 15, being much missed by a large circle of acquaintance, who esteemed him for his large-hearted benevolence, and admired his interesting and logical writings.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1887 June 10.

HARRY J. WATSON was born at Cossepore, Bengal, on 1850 May 4, being the son of Mr. James Watson of the Indian Civil Service, and grandson of Mr. Wilberforce Bird, Deputy Governor of Bengal. He served for many years in the 11th Hussars, retiring with the rank of Lieut.-Col. in 1890. He settled first at Langley, Bucks, and afterwards at Deramore, Camberley, Surrey.

He was ardently devoted to astronomy, and had an observatory at Camberley equipped with several powerful telescopes; some of them were adapted for lunar and solar photography, which he practised a good deal, being also much interested in the study of Jupiter and Saturn.

He was a frequent correspondent to the *English Mechanic* on astronomical subjects, and attended the meetings of this Society as often as he could. He much regretted that travelling difficulties during the war prevented his more frequent attendance. He was an original member of the British Astronomical Association, and a member of the Société Astronomique de France.

He died at Camberley, after an illness of seventeen days, on 1918 April 5, leaving a widow.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1885 April 10.

GEORGE JOSEPH WELDRICK was born at Idrone House, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, on 1883 May 2. He was the second son of John Francis Weldrick, who was a literary editor. He was educated at Blackrock College, and at the age of 16 was indentured apprentice with Messrs. James Cornfoot, London; they placed him on the ship *Black Rock*, which sailed between the Thames and San Francisco. He passed for second mate in 1903, for first mate in 1904, and obtained his Master's certificate in 1907, being