

Lister, whose coveted Gold Medal for Clinical Surgery he gained, and who offered him the post of house-surgeon. Last year Dr. Leeson published his reminiscences in a book entitled *Lister as I knew Him*, which has been received with widespread appreciation.

After thirty years of general practice at Twickenham, in which he achieved striking success, he retired at the age of fifty-four in order to devote himself to science and to philanthropic work for his adopted town of Twickenham, and here he laboured for the remaining nineteen years of his life, sitting on the Middlesex County Council, becoming a County Magistrate, Chairman of the local Hospital, Philanthropic Society, Charity Trustees, Twickenham Literary and Scientific Society, Education Committee, and President of the S.W. Middlesex Boy Scouts Association. In 1926 he succeeded in obtaining a Charter of Incorporation for the town, becoming its Charter Mayor and First Mayor, during which term of office he passed away. Charter Day in Twickenham was observed with great splendour and rejoicing, finding its focus in his inspiring and beloved personality, for he had veritably become the father of the place, giving his unsparing help to people of every class and creed in every type of difficulty.

His leisure time during all these years he devoted largely to astronomy and to the study of pond life. He possessed a telescope by Cooke with which he spent many a wonderful night; he was also a skilled microscopist and had a biological laboratory at his home. He was a member and one of the visitors of the Royal Institution and on the Court of the Salters' Company.

Dr. Leeson died on 1927 October 23 at the age of seventy-three.

At his funeral the whole town turned out to mourn him, for the jovial and inspiring personality of the Mayor, united with that of the untiring friend and beloved physician of former years, had endeared him deeply to all classes and callings of men. His coffin was covered with the white flag of the new borough, and the "Last Post" was sounded at his graveside by Volunteer fellow-townsmen.

His only son, Mr. Spencer Leeson, formerly sixth-form master at Winchester, is the present Headmaster of the Merchant Taylors' School.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1911 December 8.

THOMAS LEWIS, who may be known to the majority of the present Fellows only through the indexes of the *Monthly Notices* and by his splendid volume on the Struve double stars, was at one time a well-known figure at the meetings, and twenty years ago occupied the Secretarial chair.

Lewis was on the staff of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, which he joined early in the year 1881, and represented two apparently incongruous branches of work of the establishment, chronometer rating and double-star observing. When he joined, he was given the task of superintending the reduction of the zenith distance observations made with the Transit-Circle, but at the end of the year when there was a rearrangement of staff consequent on the retirement of Airy from the position of Astronomer Royal, at his own wish he was made Superintendent of the Time Department and occupied that office until his retirement

in 1917. This carried with it the work connected with the storing, rating, repairing, and issuing of chronometers. This work grew to large dimensions during the thirty-five years of his guardianship, for in 1881 there was one chronometer room only at Greenwich, but in 1917 there were three, and a room devoted to apparatus for reception of radio time-signals was also in Lewis's charge at the latter date. The growth of the chronometer department added much to his responsibility, which was recognised by his promotion, slightly out of turn, to fill a First-class Assistantship specially created by the Admiralty at the end of the year 1891.

As to his observing, in the first twelve years of his service at Greenwich Lewis took turn with others in the routine with the Transit-Circle, Altazimuth, and small Equatorial, and being a careful observer was chosen to be the colleague of Mr. (now Professor) H. H. Turner in the determination of the longitude Paris-Greenwich in 1888. When the staff was increased in number in the year 1892 he was relieved from Transit-Circle observing in order that he might devote his efforts to the micrometric observation of double stars, which he had chosen as a special line of work for himself, and in which he had already shown his interest by his paper on the "Orbit of 36 Andromedæ" in the *Monthly Notices* for 1891 June. His first published observations were made with the Merz 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch telescope, formerly the Great Equatorial at Greenwich, which, when it was dismantled to make way for the 28-inch refractor, was at his instigation placed in 1892 May on the mounting of the Lassell reflector, then housed in a low building in the south ground of the Observatory. With this instrument he worked single-handed during the year 1893, the result being a communication to the Society in 1894 March of a list of measures of position angle and distance of about 120 stars made with a bifilar micrometer. The next communication of the kind, in 1896 March, was a list of observations made in 1894 and 1895 with the new 28-inch refractor, for that instrument was given wholly into Lewis's charge, and with it he continued to make observations of double stars. This work was occasionally diversified by observations of Saturn, and as time went on others helped, so that this became an additional department of the observatory work. The results will be found in successive volumes of the *Monthly Notices* as official communications by the Astronomer Royal; further details are contained in the Greenwich volumes. These observations of Lewis are collected in the recently published Greenwich Catalogue of Double Stars.

But in addition to measures there are in the *Monthly Notices* papers in his own name on the orbits of certain binary stars that he found to be of interest, and also papers by his co-workers in the double-star department that were inspired by him. Several of the orbits computed by him still satisfy the observations well, in particular that of κ Pegasi, an extremely close double star with a semi-major axis of only 0".29 and the very short period of 11.35 years.

Special mention should be made of the volume he prepared on the stars to be found in Wilhelm Struve's *Mensuræ Micrometricæ*, published as volume 56 of the *Memoirs* of the Society, in which he collected for each star the observations made by Struve and by others since his time, and

in many cases Lewis suggested an orbit or made some critical remark. For this he was awarded the Lalande Prize of the Paris Academy in the year 1907.

Lewis was born in London on 1856 June 12 but passed his early life at East Dougland, near Wivenhoe, Essex. Early in life he lost his father, who was a captain in the mercantile marine, by disaster at sea. In 1867 he entered the section of the Royal Hospital School at Greenwich, known as the Upper School, before the reorganization of that institution into its present form, and came under the instruction of the Rev. James Hill. He maintained his connection with the school until 1875, when he entered the Collège for training Naval Teachers, then newly established at Greenwich; after completing the course, and some service as a schoolmaster, he passed by Civil Service examination into the Devonport Dockyard School as Assistant Master in 1879, and left in 1881 to take up, after further examination, the post at the Royal Observatory rendered vacant by the retirement of Mr. Lynn. He married, in 1907, Marie Elizabeth, daughter of William Robert Wills of Dinas Powis, Glamorgan. Two children were born to them, of whom the younger, a boy, died in infancy; his widow and daughter survive him. Lewis retired from his position in the Royal Observatory on 1917 September 30, and lived the later years of his life at Wivenhoe, where he died in the hospital on 1927 June 5 after a serious operation. He was buried in the cemetery of that town on June 10 in the presence of representatives of various bodies with which he had been connected during his life, among them being the Craft of Freemasonry of which he had been an enthusiastic member.

Lewis was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1884 December 12: he served on the Council from 1902 to 1912 and as Secretary from 1905 to 1909.

LOUIS GEORGE MACRORY was born in Ireland on 1865 May 25. He studied medicine at Dublin University, where after a brilliant career he graduated M.D., B.Ch., with special distinction in midwifery. He carried on general medical practice for twenty-one years in Battersea Park, and for a further twelve years in Worcester Park. During the war he served as radiographer at the Belmont Hospital. Much of the small amount of leisure from a busy professional life was spent by Dr. Macrory in his observatory at Battersea, which included a 4-inch refractor by Grubb, mounted equatorially, and driven by a clock once used by Dr. Common for his famous 60-inch reflector. Dr. Macrory was keenly interested in anything mechanical or electrical, and was one of the earliest of motorists. He attempted in the early days of motoring to drive a car round the world, but failed owing to the difficulty of obtaining spare parts. He died at his residence, Chesterfield, Worcester Park, on 1927 April 11, leaving a widow, two sons, and a daughter.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1903 December 11.

WILLIAM CUNLIFFE MARGERISON of York House, Knaresborough, a partner in the firm of Margerison & Co. of Canal Road, Bradford, wool merchants, died on the 9th day of November last.