

niscence" (vol. i, p. xix, "Celestial Objects for Common Telescopes") has written that "A curious instance of difference of vision was well illustrated one superb evening, when Mr. Webb and the writer were observing Saturn with the $9\frac{1}{3}$ -inch reflector at Hardwick. Mr. Webb saw distinctly the division in the outer ring which the writer could not see a trace of, while the writer picked up a faint point of light, which afterwards turned out to be Enceladus, which Mr. Webb could not see."* Then again, according to the *Astronomical Register*, 20, 33, 1882, J. R. Hind said at the 1882 January meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society: "I have found, from a pretty long experience, that those observers who are able to distinguish faint points of light are the least likely to see faint nebulae. What the cause is I do not know; but I remember when I was observing with Mr. Talmage, I found he could see points of light of which I could not see the slightest trace, and on the other hand he was unsuccessful in seeing a faint nebula which I could see distinctly with a low power and a 7-inch telescope." It would be of interest, to observing members particularly, if someone conversant with physiological optics would give his opinion of these statements.—DEPRITEGO.

Obituary.

William Strachan.

William Strachan was born in Yokohama, where his father was a prominent merchant. In his infancy he was sent to London that he might receive the best medical attention of the day in the hope that he might be cured of a paralytic affection which deprived him largely of the use of some of his limbs. Unfortunately this was not successful and his physical disabilities increased with the lapse of time. His interest in astronomy began in his boyhood and remained with him to the end. In early manhood he possessed a 5-inch Wray Equatorial but his crippled condition made it difficult to use this form of instrument, later he acquired a very fine Coude Equatorial fitted with a 9-inch O.G. and a 10-inch plane mirror, by Cooke of York. With this instrument he was able to work in greater comfort. He was interested in all branches of astronomy, particularly the mathematical side, which always appealed to him. His principal activities were directed to the observation of variable stars and the recording of solar surface detail, his results being communicated to the Association through the Directors of the Variable Star and Solar Sections. Two years ago his health began to fail, and latterly he suffered very acutely, bearing, however, his sufferings with great fortitude. He died at Bournemouth 1935 March 16 in the 61st year of his age. He was elected F.R.A.S. 1908 March 25 and M.B.A.A. 1916 March 10.

Our Association is definitely poorer by his passing.—W. G.

* See also Obituary Notice of T. H. E. C. Espin, *M.N.R.A.S.*, 95, 321, 1935, by T. E. R. P.