

BAHNE BONNIKSEN was born at Bov, in the Duchy of Schleswig, on 1859 October 25. He served his apprenticeship in watchmaking, and after a brief period spent in Copenhagen he came to London at the age of twenty-four, and eventually became a British subject in 1910. He died at Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, on 1935 March 5.

Bonnixsen followed the career of a watchmaker. At an early stage the remarkable performances of the Tourbillon watches and chronometers in the Kew trials attracted his attention and admiration. These watches were costly and delicate, and Bonnixsen set himself the task of making a watch which would combine the performance of the Tourbillon with the robustness of an ordinary lever watch. The result of these efforts was the successful Karrusel, or revolving escapement watch.

At a later period Bonnixsen carried out extensive experimental investigations on the temperature compensation of balance wheels, but the development of mass production led him to the conclusion that the day of the individual craftsman in watchmaking was past, and more and more of his attention was devoted to other applications of mechanism. He invented an automatic gas lighting system, a motor-car speedometer and other appliances, but he always retained his interest in time-keeping and lamented the lack of theoretical knowledge on the part of the workers of the watch trade of this country. He busied himself with schemes for correcting this, and his own knowledge was always at the disposal of others. He was keenly interested in navigation and astronomy and was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1905 May 12.

JAMES GARTON BOWER was born at Norwich on 1854 October 11, and spent all his life in his native city. He was educated at King Edward VI. School, Norwich, and from thence he entered the firm of Messrs. Barnard, Bishop & Barnards, now known as Barnards, Ltd., The Norfolk Iron Works, and thus began an association which lasted for more than sixty years, thirty of which were fulfilled in the capacity of Managing Director and Chairman of the Company. One of the outstanding successes of his long life was the invention of the special looms for producing the world-famous mixed mesh wire-netting which did much to reduce the rabbit pest in Australia.

A man with a keen mind and possessing great powers of concentration, he was never concerned with how many hours he spent on a job so long as it was ultimately satisfactory. He was also a strong-minded man, sometimes perhaps to the point of obstinacy, and once he had formed an opinion was very difficult to move; but, as the writer knows from experience, he nearly always proved right.

Bower was attracted to Astronomy at an early age, and seems to have studied the science in all its branches, but latterly his interest was more in the direction of the mechanical side of it, and during his life he became the owner of a large number of scientific instruments, one of the most important of which was the Isaac Roberts 20-inch reflector, made by Sir Howard Grubb, to which was attached a 7-inch refractor, made by Cooke. Previous to purchasing that instrument he possessed a 20-inch speculum mounted as