

Distinguished abroad as at home, Professor Spooner was a recipient of the orders, Knight Commander of the Royal Order of St. Sava, Serbia (1895), and Knight of the Golden Cross of the Redeemer, Greece (1907).

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1935 April 12.

EVAN GWYN WILLIAMS was born on 1905 October 13, the elder son of the late Christopher Williams, artist and portrait painter. He died in Pretoria on 1940 May 31 after an operation.

He was educated at the Froebel Educational Institute School, the King Alfred School, Hampstead, and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated in Natural Science in 1926. He then spent a year in London studying under Professor A. Fowler and Mr. C. C. L. Gregory, followed by three months at the Norman Lockyer Observatory. In the autumn of 1927 he returned to Cambridge to do research work at the Solar Physics Observatory. Two years later he was awarded an Isaac Newton Studentship and in 1931 a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship, with which he went to Mount Wilson for two years. He then returned once more to Cambridge and in 1936 was appointed to the staff of the Solar Physics Observatory. A year later he took up the post of Second Assistant at the Radcliffe Observatory, Pretoria.

Williams published eight major papers, two of these being in collaboration with other men, and a number of shorter articles—an impressive record for a comparatively short career. His first paper, on the effect of temperature and surface gravity on hydrogen line contours, appeared in the *Annals of the Solar Physics Observatory*. Then followed four papers in the *Astrophysical Journal*, the result of work done during his two years at Mount Wilson. These deal with the spectrophotometry of B-type stars and include a discussion of the relation between colour excess and interstellar calcium line intensity and a scheme of classification for these stars. His later work at Cambridge resulted in two papers on the contours of bands in Nova Herculis, and with D. L. Edwards he wrote a second paper on the classification of B-type stars, all of which appeared in the *Monthly Notices*.

In Pretoria he was engaged at the time of his death on an observational programme on the magnitudes of southern B-type stars in three colours, using the 7-inch finder of the yet unfinished reflector. He also observed the Cepheid variables, ι Carinae and β Doradus, in a similar manner. The results of as much of this work as he had completed will be communicated to the Society in due course.

He was a member of two eclipse expeditions, that of Professor Stratton to Canada in 1932 and that of Professor Carroll to Omsk in Siberia in 1936. The first of these was entirely unsuccessful owing to cloud, but at the second Williams observed some new lines in the Paschen series of hydrogen. He was to have used Professor Carroll's interferometer at Calvinia on 1940 October 1.

Gwyn Williams had a pronounced artistic sense and considerable skill with his fingers, both of which gifts proved of great value in the early days at Pretoria, when the telescope turret, office and residences were rising from the rough hill-top and mounds of building refuse had to be converted into gardens. But perhaps his chief characteristic was his love of observing. While still a boy he had become intensely interested in nature in its various manifestations, and he filled countless notebooks with descriptions of all that he saw. So it was natural that later he should become an astronomer in the truest sense—he had to observe all that was observable. And yet he did it in his own way. He was never content to follow other people's methods. It is perhaps due to this that he had such an engaging personality. Indeed he proved himself a delightful colleague and a loyal friend. It is sad that he did not live to see the completion of the 74-inch reflector, and with it to explore the mysteries of the southern skies, a task to which he was so keenly looking forward. For he had the urge to explore,