

We are greatly indebted to Greaves for the work he did on committees—local, national and international. At Edinburgh he served on the Council of the Royal Society, holding office as Secretary and Vice-President. For many years he was Chairman of the Robert Cormack Bequest Committee for promoting astronomical knowledge and research in Scotland. He acted as chairman of a small subcommittee of our National Committee responsible for the final draft of a resolution regarding the present needs of astronomy in this country. He took on the thankless job of chairman of the committee for nominating British members of Commissions of the I.A.U. and at the General Assembly of the I.A.U. was appointed chairman of the committee dealing with this problem. He had the impossible task of trying to please everyone. When he took up this appointment the committee spent long hours in sorting out the claims of representatives of many countries—hours which most of the members would have preferred spending otherwise. To him must be given some of the credit for the system which now allows much of the work to be done leisurely by post before the meetings of the General Assembly. Greaves did nothing by halves. I remember once telling him that I proposed passing on some information to an astronomer working in a rather isolated observatory. He agreed that I should do so and then added that it would be a mistake not to do so. He travelled many times (by air) from Edinburgh to London to attend meetings of committees and frequently intervened effectively at the meetings. He was a valued member of the Board of Visitors for the Royal Greenwich Observatory and for the Jodrell Bank Experimental Station on both of which he represented our Society. Earlier he had been one of those who had strongly advocated the importance of Radio-Astronomy and the need for the construction of a large Radio-Telescope in this country.

In 1926 he married Caroline Grace, daughter of H. D. Kitto of Whiteshill in Gloucestershire, who survives him with an only son. A younger sister of Mrs Greaves married the late Dr L. J. Comrie.

He was elected F.R.S. in 1943 and a Fellow of our Society in 1921.

I am indebted to Dr M. A. Ellison for assistance in preparing this notice.

J. JACKSON.

News of the death of WILLIAM BRADSHAW HOUSMAN of Seaton Observatory, Workington, Cumberland, was received with regret by many Fellows of this society. He had been in poor health during the last six years or so, having been bedridden for four months as early as 1950, but he had doggedly persevered with his observations whenever possible.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1937 November 12, and died on 1955 January 17. One of his main interests in astronomy was the study of Aurorae, and for 23 years (1928–1951) he was Director of the Aurora and Zodiacal Section of the British Astronomical Association. Besides many Reports for the B.A.A. Journal, he produced three Memoirs on his Section's activities. His last Section Report appeared in December 1951, shortly after he had retired from his office as Director, owing to failing health. He continued to observe and report when fit, maintaining interest in his Section's work throughout.

William Housman will best be remembered by those who knew and collaborated with him in the '30s and early '40s, when he produced his best