

work; but many others, who knew him, as I did, only in his declining years, will have felt the benefit of his kindly interest, the ever-present willingness to share his wide experience, and the drive of an enthusiasm which would turn his eyes towards the Northern Dawn or in quest of that more elusive and less spectacular phenomenon—the Zodiacal Light—when others, more robust, might find many valid reasons for ignoring both!

He was a painstaking and faithful observer, and his long and conscientious researches may serve as an encouragement to younger observers, and so further assist the cause of astronomy in general.

D. A. MACLEAN.

SIR FRANCIS McCLEAN, A.F.C., was best known to the outside world as a pioneer aviator, the patron of aviation and the founder of amateur and naval flying in Great Britain. His interest in astronomy was derived from his father, Dr Frank McClean F.R.S., and it took the form of active organization of eclipse expeditions and beneficent aid to the Norman Lockyer Observatory of which he was a joint founder. Born on 1876 February 1, he was educated at Charterhouse, Clifton and Cooper's Hill and served with the Public Works Department in India, 1898–1902. He flew in two Gordon–Bennett balloon races in 1907–8 and with Wilbur Wright in an aeroplane in 1908. He bought land at Eastchurch in the Isle of Sheppey, which he subsequently let to the Aero Club of Great Britain for 1s *od.* a year. He lent aircraft to naval officers so that they could learn to fly. In 1912 he flew up the Thames in an aircraft passing between the upper and lower parts of the Tower Bridge and, without touching water, under London Bridge. He joined the R.N.A.S. on 1914 August 6, and after service on the channel patrol became chief instructor at Eastchurch. Later he received a commission in the R.A.F.

He organized two eclipse expeditions, one to Flint Island for the eclipse of 1908 January 3, and one to Fort Davey in Tasmania for 1910 May 9 (an eclipse curiously omitted from the list given by Professor Mitchell in *Eclipses of the Sun*, p. 55). But he was dogged by bad weather on both occasions. The 21-inch siderostat which he bought for the 1910 eclipse he presented later to the Solar Physics Observatory at Cambridge. He also went with an eclipse expedition led by Sir Norman Lockyer to Vavau for the eclipse of 1911 April 28. His friendship with the Lockyers, father and son, led to his generous gifts to the Norman Lockyer Observatory to which body he gave a twin telescope complete with the (Frank McClean) dome and a sidereal clock. For some years he served on the Council of the Observatory under the chairmanship of his friend Sir Richard Gregory. Genial friendship was of the essence of his nature. He was High Sheriff for Oxfordshire in 1932 and he served for two periods as Chairman of the Royal Aero Club. A wide circle of friends will miss him greatly. He died on 1955 August 11, leaving a widow and two daughters.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on 1902 November 14.

F. J. M. STRATTON.

On 1955 March 4 the REV. PAUL A. McNALLY, S.J., died very suddenly at Georgetown University where he had spent twenty-seven years of service.