

OBITUARY NOTICES

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## ALGERNON MONTAGUE NEWBEGIN

Algernon Montague Newbegin was born at Thorpe St. Andrew, near Norwich, on 1885 January 19. His father, G. J. Newbegin, was an original Member of the B.A.A., and was a familiar figure at its meetings in the earlier years of the century. In his youth A. M. Newbegin took up professional photography; but at about the age of sixteen he began to be affected with the deafness, of increasing severity, which was to be the outstanding handicap of his life, and he was obliged to give up his work. In 1910 he married Annie R. Jessup, and went to live in Carshalton, Surrey, and later moved to Wallington, in the same county. In 1919 his father died, and Newbegin went to live in his house at Sutton, nearby. In 1927 he moved to Worthing, where he lived, with a two-year interval at Sherborne during the Second World War, until 1947. He then moved to Paignton, Devon, where he spent the remaining years of his life and died on 1965 April 30. His wife had died, at Sherborne, in 1941, and in 1946 he had married Mrs Ann Cox, a widow whose first husband had been killed in the 1914-18 war. She, with his daughter, survives him.

Newbegin's interest in Astronomy, naturally encouraged by his father, dated from his earliest years and may be said to have dominated his entire life. His first observations were made with the 9-inch Cooke refractor which his father had mounted at his Norfolk home; and it was not long before he possessed a 4½-inch refractor of his own. Later, when G. J. Newbegin died, his son sold the 9-inch telescope, but retained its very massive equatorial mounting, and used it to carry a 6¼-inch photovisual by Cooke, and two smaller instruments. Some years before his death, this very fine outfit was presented by Newbegin to the Royal Greenwich Observatory, and it was the first instrument to be mounted and used at the new site at Herstmonceux.

Following his father's lead, Newbegin devoted himself almost entirely to solar work, and kept careful and regular records of sunspots and prominences during the whole of his long and active career as an observer. He joined the B.A.A. in 1905, and thereafter gave valuable service to the Association in many capacities. He was Curator of Lantern Slides from 1907 to 1917, and was Librarian from 1910 to 1919, during which period he re-wrote the Card Catalogue, which was published in 1913. Finally, in 1925 he succeeded E. W. Maunder as Director of the Solar Section, over which he presided until 1937, and produced two Memoirs during his term of office. His many services to the Association were appropriately acknowledged by the award to him of the Goodacre Medal in 1932.

All Newbegin's work, including his drawings and written records, was characterized by great neatness and accuracy. He was also a skilled craftsman, working in both wood and metal, and nearly all the mechanical parts of his spectroheliometer at Worthing were the work of his own hands. Before he moved to the West of England, he was very regular in his attendance at meetings of the Association. Here his deafness stood in the way of the rapid development of friendships in the brief periods available for conversation; but those who were privileged to know him well and to visit him in his home will have the happiest recollections of a kindly man, serious of mind but with a strong sense of humour.

W.H.S.