

THE LATE MR. ADAM HILGER, F.R.A.S.—By the death of Adam Hilger, which took place on April 23, astronomical physics has suffered a loss which cannot be easily made good. Standing in the front rank of practical opticians, he did much to promote scientific progress along various lines, his practical skill enabling him to undertake optical work of the highest character.

He was born in Darmstadt, 7th January 1839. In his early youth he showed a great inclination for the mechanical work in which his father was then engaged. For some years he was a mechanical engineer at the Mint in Darmstadt, and he afterwards entered Ertel's famous establishment at Munich. He next came to London, but soon left for Paris, where he found employment with Lerebours & Secretan. During his engagement he constructed many instruments under the direct supervision of Foucault, and became fully acquainted with the theory as well as with the practice of his art. After the war of 1870 he came to London, and here he eventually became manager in the works of John Browning, and after completion of his contract started a business of his own in Tottenham Court Road. At these well-equipped works he produced the instruments which brought him such a high reputation among physicists and astronomers throughout the world. He was especially skilled in manipulating quartz and Iceland spar for work on the ultra violet rays, and had lately succeeded in making very perfect achromatic combinations of these materials. The special qualities of the new Jena glasses were also well known to him, and by their use he produced achromatic lenses of very short focal length, as well as prisms of very high dispersion.

It is hoped that his brother, Otto Hilger, who has been with him throughout his whole career, may carry on his business.