

Charles Thomas Whitmell.

Charles Thomas Whitmell, M.A., B.Sc., F.R.A.S., died 10th December 1919. A whole-hearted follower of science, he pursued its teachings in many various, though cognate, branches, concentrating himself finally on astronomy. He was one of those persons, of great value to the world, who not only study, but stimulate others to study; an enthusiastic admirer of the world as it presents itself to our senses; and not forgetful, either, of that other world which lies deeper than our senses, the world in which personal feeling rules.

He was born on the 10th of July 1849, in Leeds, where his father was a clerk of the Bank of England (and chief clerk for some years before his retirement). Educated as a boy in the

Leeds Grammar School, he won a Queen's Prize for proficiency in Inorganic Chemistry in May 1864; and it is interesting to learn that six months before that date he had received a letter from Faraday (which I believe exists still). In another field of activity, he won a prize for throwing the cricket ball. He left the Grammar School at the end of 1864, and from that date until August 1868, he studied for a scientific degree (B.Sc.), at the London University, which he gained; and with it he won the exhibition of £40 a year for two years, awarded for proficiency in Natural Philosophy and Chemistry. He had also made attempts at a more permanent livelihood, but these came to nothing; and on 9th April 1869 he obtained a Natural Science Scholarship at Trinity College, Cambridge, being then three months short of 20 years old.

In his college career he obtained distinctions (among others a Winchester Reading Prize), and every now and then he delivered lectures to societies (one on Hamlet soon after taking his degree). In the Mathematical Tripos he was 52nd (10th Senior Optime), a very fair degree; but in the Natural Sciences Tripos he was 1st in the 1st Class, a high distinction. This was towards the end of 1872; and during the following year he took pupils at Cambridge. Also he gave lectures on behalf of the University of Cambridge (University Extension lectures), and for a couple of years was a master at Tonbridge School; but in 1879 he entered upon the most long-continued activity of his life, being appointed an Inspector of Schools under the Education Department. Though his primary ambition had lain in wider fields of theory, he applied himself most faithfully to the practical work; and his rare courtesy and considerateness towards the teachers whose work he supervised and controlled was answered on their part with trust and gratitude, as was shown by testimonials and addresses received by him both at Cardiff and Leeds, the two principal centres where his work had lain. "The great affection and esteem in which you are held"—such were the terms in which the Leeds teachers expressed their feelings towards him.

All this time he was not forgetful of science; and in his travels in North America in 1883 he had been particularly interested in the geology of the Yellowstone district, of the Yosemite valley, and, above all, of the Colorado cañons, and had accumulated literature on these subjects. Moreover, he was in continuous scientific correspondence (chiefly mathematical and astronomical) with all manner of persons, high and low; and this correspondence he preserved in a series of invaluable logbooks, which it is to be hoped may find a safe and permanent home. Pamphlets also he kept, in great number, valuable and various. He was a Member of the Royal Astronomical Society, the British Astronomical Society, and of all the scientific societies in Leeds.

He married in 1903; his charming, gifted wife (*née* Lucy Foster), author of the well-known poem "Christ in Flanders," died in 1917, to his great grief. He himself wrote poetry, some of which deserves to be remembered.

Requiescat, reviviscat.

JOHN R. MOZLEY.