

THE LATE REV. E. L. BERTHON, M.A., F.R.A.S.—We regret to record the death of this well-known inventor at the advanced age of 86. Born in 1813, on leaving school Mr. Berthon spent five years in Liverpool and three in Dublin, in the study of medicine. For some reason not explained his engagement to Miss Preston put an end to his medical studies, and after travelling with his wife on the Continent for some years, Mr. Berthon went to Cambridge in 1841, where he took a pass degree, and as he says, “resisted all persuasions to go in for honours.” On leaving college he took Holy Orders, and was eventually presented with the living of the Abbey Church at Romsey. His name is much connected with the restoration of this Norman church, but his chief claim to fame lies in his invention of the “Berthon Collapsible Boat,” which owed its origin to the wreck of the “Orion” off Portpatrick. His favourite hobby, however, was astronomy, and the construction of astronomical instruments, and many will recollect his re-admission in June last as a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, when he showed his new form of equatorial telescope. He joined the British Astronomical Association in March 1899, and we very greatly regret that we should have retained him as a fellow Member for so short a time.