

Frederick William Levander.

It was with deep regret that we announced in the last issue of the *Journal* the death on December 20, 1916, of Mr. Frederick William Levander, one of our original Members, past-President, Librarian, and Editor of the *Journals* and *Memoirs* of the Association. His inclination as well as his duties rendered him one of the most constant attendants at the Astronomical Meetings. His appearance, therefore, was familiar to the Members, but he spoke very rarely in the discussions upon the papers read, and as he was reserved and retiring by nature he talked little except to those whom he numbered amongst his personal friends. Probably it is known only to the Officers and Council, how devotedly he served the Association, and how great and unremitting were the services he rendered it. To his personal friends, among these, it was always a pleasure, and we may say, a profit also, to sit beside him in the Council Chamber or at the Meeting and hear his low-voiced private comments on the transactions, comments which sometimes by their humorous, sometimes by their caustic character, showed his close attention to and shrewd discernment of the points discussed.

Mr. Levander was born at Exmouth in 1839, and became a schoolmaster, being one of the Assistant Classical Masters at University College School in Gower Street from 1869-72 and again from 1878-1909 (when he retired); teaching at Heath Brow School in the intervening period, 1872-78. In this capacity he brought out several educational books: "Solutions of the Questions in Magnetism and Electricity set at the Intermediate Science and Preliminary Science Examinations of the University of London," "Questions on the English Language," and "Questions on History and Geography set at the Matriculation Examination of the University of London"; "Memorabilia Latina"; "Test Questions on the Latin Language"; and also in 1887 he brought out, in conjunction with the late Warden of the Standards, models for teaching Weights and Measures, and he wrote notes to accompany the same, which were adopted by the London School Board and by the Public Schools of New South Wales. These were all works connected with his profession of teaching.

But his leisure Mr. Levander devoted in two other directions: Astronomy and Freemasonry. His first published observation was of a spot on Mars, seen with a 1½-in. object-glass on June 7, 1860, and appeared in "Recreative Science" (Vol. II., p. 212, [1860]). In 1861 he was initiated in the Wiltshire Lodge of Fidelity, No. 663. Ultimately he became a member of the Inner Circle of the great Archæological Society of the Freemasons, called the "Quatuor Coronati Lodge," and of which

Lodge he was Master at the time of his death, having been inducted in the previous month, November 1916. He was interested also in various benevolent Masonic associations, but his literary contributions to Freemasonry were largely archaeological and antiquarian in character, being papers on the Jerusalem Sols and some other London societies of the 18th century, and on the Levander-York version of the Old Charges and other notes contributed to the "Transactions of Lodge Quatuor Coronati, No. 2076."

His early astronomical observations, published in 1860, made a record as to the visibility of markings on Mars and of Saturn's Crape Ring with a telescope of only $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. in aperture. He was also the first to design and bring out (1871) at a moderate price an equatorial mounting suitable for a 3-in. or 4-in. telescope, and a few years afterwards he devised a 15-in. tangent galvanometer, figured in Prof. Silvanus Thompson's work on Electricity and Magnetism. In 1878 he described before the Royal Astronomical Society his variable diaphragm for use in solar and sidereal observations. In 1889 he presented to the Royal Astronomical Society a discussion of the colours of 4,984 stars as described by various observers, with the special purpose of reducing such descriptions to a uniform scale, and in 1891 he described before the British Astronomical Association an instrument which he had devised—the star chromoscope—for obtaining definite measures of star colours.

But perhaps the literary work most characteristic of his temperament was his indexing. He compiled general indexes to the *Astronomical Register*, Vols. 1-20, to the *Journal* of the British Astronomical Association, Vols. 1-18, and to the *Monthly Notices* of the Royal Astronomical Society, Vols. 52-70. In 1895, when the British Astronomical Association had accumulated the nucleus of a library, he became Librarian. In 1900, when the previous Editor left England on an eclipse expedition, involving an absence of some months, Mr. Levander took over the editorship of the *Journal* and *Memoirs*, and continued in this position until his death. Seventeen volumes of the *Journal*, twelve volumes of the *Memoirs*, bear his name on the title-page, and suggest how greatly the Association was indebted to his unobtrusive and unfailing industry, to his literary skill and mastery of his chosen task. In 1906 he was elected President of the Association, and on accepting this office he resigned his position of Librarian.

Mr. Levander was present at the Council and Meeting of the Association on November 29, 1916. In the second week of December he was taken ill, and died on December 20 at his residence, 30, North Villas, Camden Square. He was interred at the Hampstead Cemetery, Fortune Green, on December 23, the President, the Secretaries, and a Member of the Council attending at the graveside to express for the Association the honour in which he was held.