

## H. W. Smithers.

We have to report with regret the death of Mr. H. W. Smithers, an original member and a benefactor to the Association, who died on March 30 last at Quebec, aged 77. Mr. Smithers began his business career with the engineering firm of Messrs. Peto and Betts, at the age of 15 years, and attained to a position of much authority in the railway world here and on the other side of the Atlantic. Mr. Smithers established an observatory about 35 years ago at his house, Baddow Court, Great Baddow, Essex, which he transferred to Ashurst Place, near Tunbridge Wells, in 1901. He was specially interested in the mechanical side of astronomy and possessed clocks and other instruments of that kind of value. His principal instrument was the  $9\frac{1}{3}$ -in. Cooke refractor, formerly the property of Mr. Crossley, of Bermerside, Halifax, and now in the possession of an observer living in India.

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