

Mr. W. F. Stanley, F.R.A.S.

Mr. W. F. Stanley, the well-known head of the optical firm of that name, was for some years a member of our Association, and up to the time of his death, on the 14th of August, in the eighty-first year of his age, a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. Though a man of varied scientific attainments, his original contributions were rather in the region of geology and general physics than of astronomy. But the work "Notes on the Nebular Theory in relation to Stellar, Solar, Planetary, Cometary, and Geological Phenomena," which he published in 1895, merits the most careful study by all students of our science. Mr. Stanley fully grasped the necessity of a greatly extended subdivision of the particles of matter, for which he proposed the name pneumites (perhaps in allusion to Sir John Herschel's expression "almost spiritual" in referring to comets), whereas they are now usually called electrons. It is not necessary here to refer to his eminence in the practical matters connected with his own line. He was a man of great philanthropic instincts, and set an example, which it is to be hoped will be largely followed, of establishing technical schools in his own neighbourhood. Stanley Halls, too, and the many institutions connected therewith, will form a lasting memorial in South Norwood to the beneficence of the founder in that locality, where they were much appreciated. At the present time it is interesting to recall the fact, which he often mentioned to the writer, that he well remembered seeing Halley's comet at its last appearance in 1835. He leaves a widow, but no children. His golden wedding was celebrated not long before his death.

W. T. L.