

## In Memoriam.

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The Rev. J. M. Bacon, F.R.A.S.

It is with very great regret that we have once more to record the loss of one of our most distinguished Members, which occurred on the morning of December 26. The Rev. John Mackenzie Bacon, who was born in 1846, was the great-grandson of the celebrated sculptor, John Bacon, R.A. He gained a Foundation Scholarship at Trinity College, Cambridge, but owing to ill-health proceeded only to an *ægrotat* degree. He was ordained deacon in 1870, priest in the following year, and for nearly seven years held the curacy of Harston, in Cambridgeshire. He had not, however, taken regular clerical duty for a long time. He took up his residence at Coldash, near Newbury, and devoted himself to scientific pursuits. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1888, and in 1898 contributed to that Society a paper on the "Actinic Qualities of Light as affected by different Conditions of Atmosphere." Mr. Bacon was elected a Member of our Association on 1895, October 30, and served on its Council for four years as well as on Eclipse Committees. The first Eclipse expedition organised by the Association was, as will be remembered, a failure through bad weather, but Mr. Bacon took an active part in both the second and the third.

In the second Eclipse Expedition to India in 1897-98, two parties were organised, and Mr. Bacon was the leader of that which was stationed at Buxar on the river Ganges, and his party were very successful not only in their coronal photographs, but also in their concerted attempts to sketch the corona. On this occasion Mr. Bacon not merely manipulated the cinematograph lent by Mr. Nevil Maskelyne, F.R.A.S., but also made some interesting experiments on the actinic qualities of the corona. In the third expedition, Mr. Bacon led the party which went to America, and, in company with the great American Expedition, was stationed at Wadesborough in North Carolina. Here again the party were most successful in their coronal photographs.

But it was as an aeronaut, and in connection with experiments on the transmission of sounds at different elevations above the surface of the earth, that Mr. Bacon was, perhaps, best known to the general public. In his aerial, as in his astronomical, expeditions he was accompanied by his daughter, Miss Gertrude Bacon, and it will be remembered that in one of their descents both were seriously injured. He was well known, too, as a lecturer and as an author, in both of which characters he achieved success. At the last Meeting of the Council a vote of condolence with his family on their bereavement was passed; this was announced at the ordinary meeting that followed, and the general body of Members was associated with the Council in the resolution.

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