

*The President*, before the commencement of the ordinary business, desired to call attention to the very great loss that astronomy had suffered during the last few days by the death of Miss Agnes Mary Clerke. Miss Clerke was so well known to all interested in that science that it was hardly necessary to say anything respecting her. Still, he might on that occasion be permitted to mention a few facts in connection with her life-history. Miss Clerke spent some years in Italy with her sister, Miss Ellen Mary Clerke—who died a few months ago—where she made many contributions to both English and Italian literature. But astronomy soon took the foremost place in her thoughts, and in 1885 she published her admirable *History of Astronomy during the 19th Century*. That history had always been looked upon as a classic. Although she did not wait until the close of the century for its publication, she kept it up to date, and it ran through four editions, the last having been published in 1902. The amount of labour that that history must have entailed was amply shown, as in the case of all her other works, by the numerous references on every page. Shortly afterwards she went to the Royal Observatory at the Cape of Good Hope, where she did some practical work, after which she appeared to have

devoted herself almost exclusively to the study of the new astronomy. After a very short interval her name came before the public again, and, without regarding the actual chronological sequence of events, he might mention that she produced a work called "The System of the Stars and other problems in Astrophysics," and a smaller one, "The Herschels and Modern Astronomy." Her attention was not devoted to astronomy alone, for 15 years ago she brought out a work of a different character, entitled "Studies in Homer." Her last great work, "Problems in Astrophysics," appeared in 1903. The great command of language that she possessed, the charm of her style, the lucidity of her explanations, the grasp that she had of the recondite matters that were brought before her in her search in various periodicals were clearly shown in every one of her works. She also devoted considerable time to writing biographies, and in addition numerous articles from her pen appeared in not only the "Observatory," but also various other scientific journals. It was on account of her great services and the work that she had accomplished in bringing together so many observations, knowing exactly the useful inferences to draw from them, and the manner in which she had laid those down, that the Council at their meeting that afternoon had passed the following resolution:—

"That this Council, having learned with deep regret of the death of Miss Agnes Mary Clerke, a greatly esteemed and distinguished Member of the Association from its inception and for six years a Member of the Council, desire to put on record their profound sorrow at the loss which astronomy has sustained, and to express their condolence and deep sympathy with her bereaved family; and that a copy of this resolution be sent to her brother, A. St. J. Clerke, Esq. 1907, January 30." It was thought by the Council that the Members attending that meeting of the Association would perhaps like to be associated in the resolution, and he accordingly invited the Meeting to signify its wish in that direction.