

The Association has lost one of its oldest friends in Bernard Francis Bawtree, who died on June 3 at the age of 82. Bawtree joined the Association in 1895. He was at that time a member of the staff of the Nautical Almanac Office, where he worked for some forty years, and eventually rose to the rank of Chief Assistant. In this capacity he was responsible for the production of the *Nautical Almanac*, and for this reason alone astronomers and navigators have reason to be grateful to his memory. Yet astronomy remained an unflagging interest in his life, so that even during his retirement he continued with those problems in computing which most attracted him. His experience in dealing with eclipses is shown in the number of papers which he produced on this subject. The first of these appeared in our *Journal* in 1919, and was followed a year or so later by his contribution to the first *Memoir* of the newly-formed Computing Section.

On his retirement from the Nautical Almanac Office, he became a regular contributor to the Association's *Handbook*, and from 1923 for a period of over twenty years, he made the ephemeris of the minor planet Vesta his sole responsibility, doing the whole of the laborious calculations from Leveau's tables unaided. Within recent years, the accurate predictions which he made have not been given in the *Handbook*, but Bawtree was working on this problem for the benefit of professional astronomers to within a few months of his death. Of his other astronomical work, which was mainly on the subject of eclipses, we remember in particular two items of outstanding interest—his extensive notes and maps on the occasion of the total eclipse of 1927, and the simple system which he devised for computing lunar and solar eclipses, and other astronomical phenomena connected with the Sun and Moon (*Memoirs* 34, part 4). He also published, at his own expense, some useful Sun tables, giving the data for the Sun for the years 0 to 2000 A.D.

A kindly and unassuming man, Bawtree was a keen Churchman, and will long be remembered in the parish of Belmont, Sutton, for his work in connection with the church of St. John. For many years he was a sidesman in the church and Superintendent of the Boys' Sunday School, and an enthusiastic and untiring leader of a Boys' Club. His generous donations to these activities included the gift of a new Parish Hall, which stands as a fitting memorial to his work in the parish.

His work in astronomy remains for all time in our publications, and the computing work in which he was so interested has greatly benefited by the generous gift to the Computing Section by the Misses Bawtree of a new Brunsviga calculating machine. This machine and its accompanying set of tables, forms the *Bawtree Memorial*, a handsome and lasting memorial indeed, and one which will always call to mind the name of an astronomer and computer of the front rank.—J.G.P.