

THE LATE MR. B. J. HOPKINS.—We greatly regret to notice the death of Mr. B. J. Hopkins, F.R.A.S. Mr. Hopkins was a striking example of a profound devotion to science under most unfavourable circumstances. His education was but meagre, his parents being poor, yet he managed to acquire several works on astronomy, and at the age of 14 was publishing papers on that science in "Design and Work," and suggesting explanations of the origin of cometary tails. Having written on this subject to Sir Joseph Hooker, he received visits from Prof. Stokes and Lord Lindsay, the latter of whom invited him to spend a month at Dun Echt, and helped him in various ways. He next became apprenticed to a brass engraver, but continually employed his scanty leisure in astronomical observation, study, or correspondence, communicating many papers to the "English Mechanic," the "Observatory," "Nature," "Knowledge," &c. In 1883, though not yet of age, he was elected Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, before which body he read not a few papers. He was one of the original Members of the British Astronomical Association, and last year published a very neat and clearly written little volume, entitled "Astronomy for Everyday Readers." He died at the early age of 31, on January 16, 1894, from peritonitis, after an illness of 12 weeks. He leaves a wife and two children.