

By the most regrettable death of Bertrand Meigh Peek in 1965, May, while on a visit to his son in Australia, the British Astronomical Association has lost another of the stalwarts whose excellent work as an amateur astronomer has done much to help the Association gain the high esteem it has enjoyed in the field of astronomy.

Born at Boscombe on 1891 December 27, he attended a private preparatory school, "Gorse Cliff", Boscombe, before going to Malvern Public School. It was during this period of his life that his interest in Astronomy was aroused. He kept careful notes of his observations and the note books he used are still in existence; they are a joy to read.

On leaving Malvern he became an undergraduate at Magdalene College Cambridge, where he obtained the degree of M.A. During the 1914-18 war with Germany he joined the 8th Battalion of the Hampshire regiment eventually becoming a Captain, serving for a period in India, a country which gained his interest and affection.

After the war Bertrand Peek joined the teaching profession and became headmaster of Solihull Grammar School (Junior Section). As a young man he excelled in tennis, playing in tournaments for the County of Hampshire, and during his teaching career at Solihull he represented Warwickshire as a chess player. He was also a first-class musician.

A versatile amateur astronomer, Bertrand Peek undertook observations of double stars, meteors, novae and comets, but it was in the field of planetary work that he excelled, becoming in turn the Director of the Mars Section in 1930-31, the Saturn Section in 1933-34 and, on the retirement of the late Rev. T. E. R. Phillips, of the Jupiter Section in 1934, holding the latter office until 1949. He was elected President of the Association in October 1938 and guided its affairs during a most difficult period, especially from the outbreak of war in September 1939 to October 1940. In 1957 he was awarded the Walter Goodacre medal and gift.

The literature of the Association was greatly enhanced by the Jupiter Memoirs he produced during his term as Director of the Jupiter Section. A careful and deliberate observer himself, Mr Peek was sometimes rather impatient with those who hurried their observations and were hasty in their conclusions. Everything he undertook was accurately planned, and even in later life, the accuracy of his observations was not impaired in the least, though he himself would not have made this claim. His book *The Planet Jupiter* published by Faber and Faber in 1958, is a monument to one who, for most of his life, served Astronomy and the Association with the greatest integrity. We are very much the poorer for his passing.

Mrs Nora Peek and two sons survive him and to them we all extend our most heartfelt sympathy.