

SIR C. E. PEEK.—It is with deep regret that we record the death of Sir Cuthbert Edgar Peek, Bart., of Rousdon, Lyme Regis, who died at Brighton on July 6th from congestion of the brain. Deceased was the only child of Sir Henry William Peek, the first baronet, and was born at Eagle House, Clapham Common, January 30, 1855. He was educated at Eton and at Pembroke College, Cambridge, graduating B.A. in 1879, and proceeding to M.A. in 1883.

From an early age the deceased baronet was a keen student of scientific and antiquarian subjects, and in 1881 made an extensive journey in the little frequented parts of Iceland. On his return he set up a small observatory in the grounds of his father's house at Wimbledon, and worked with a 3-in. equatorially mounted telescope. In 1882 he went to Australia to observe the Transit of Venus, taking with him a 6.4-in. equatorially mounted telescope, chronometers, and various other apparatus, which were erected in a temporary observatory at Jimbour, Queensland, where for about six weeks in November and December he assiduously observed a large number of double stars and clusters, paying particular attention to the nebula surrounding γ Argus. After extensive travels in Australia and New Zealand, he returned to England in August 1883, and soon made plans for the Rousdon Observatory, which was built in 1884.

The building stands east and west, containing on the ground floor a transit room on the east and a computing room and library on the west, the centre being a photographic dark room and chemical laboratory, over which is the equatorial room covered by a 16-foot copper dome. Here have been carried on during the last 17 years continuous observations of a selected number of Long Period Variable Stars, the value of which has met with hearty recognition by both English and foreign astronomers, and with the details of which the readers of this "Journal" are familiar from the annual reports which have appeared for years past. Besides these, five sections of the work have been privately printed and extensively distributed among various observatories and variable star observers.

Sir Cuthbert was also a distinguished meteorologist. Commencing in 1883 with the usual instruments of a second order station, he gradually added evaporation tanks, sunshine recorders, registering pluviometer, and various patterns of anemometers, for which he erected an iron tower which is a conspicuous object for miles round. Seventeen annual volumes have been published, containing a vast amount of information.

The observatory was always open to scientific workers, and a large correspondence with variable star observers, both at home and abroad, has been always maintained. Many who have had the

pleasure of a visit to Rousdon will heartily endorse the concluding words of a reference in the "Times" of Monday, July 8th:—
" Sir Cuthbert leaves behind him the memory of one of the kindest-hearted of men and most genial of companions."

Sir Cuthbert was an original Member of our Association, and had served on the Council. At our last Meeting his name was read among those to be ballotted for to compose the new Council for the ensuing Session. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and of the Society of Antiquaries, besides being a Member of several political and other institutions.