

Major John Cassells, V.D., J.P., F.R.A.S.

We regret to announce the death of Major John Cassells, which occurred on 16th July last, by which the West of Scotland Branch has lost its most valued and respected Member. His connection with the Association dates from November 1897. A few months later he became a Member of Committee of the Branch, and gave continuous service in various capacities as an office-bearer up to the time of his death. During the Session 1908-09 he was President of the West of Scotland Branch, and had he been spared he would have held this office throughout the Session 1909-10. Major Cassells contributed on many occasions to the discussions at the Meetings, and his contributions were always such as not only to elucidate the subject under consideration, but to enhance its interest and attractiveness. As President he discharged the duties of the Chair in a manner which greatly conduced to the success and pleasure of the Meetings. He gave his time and energies freely to the service of the public in many different spheres of action. For five years he was a Member of the Town Council of Glasgow, during which time he took a particular interest in the work of the Parks Committee. He had also a long connection with the Volunteer movement, holding the rank of Major in the 3rd Lanark Rifle Volunteers. At the inauguration of the Loch Katrine Water Supply for the City of Glasgow, 50 years ago, he formed one of Queen Victoria's bodyguard. His zeal in the cause of education was also well known. For six years he was Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Glasgow Athenæum, while he also served for many years as a Member of Govan School Board. He was an active member of many scientific societies, but among the different branches of science he always gave the foremost place to astronomy, and it was his constant endeavour to promote its study and to diffuse a knowledge of it as widely as possible. In 1896 he took part in the Association's Solar Eclipse Expedition to Vadsö, in Norway, and in the Association's collection of lantern slides is a series of landscape views taken by him during the eclipse. To the Govan School Board he presented a fine 4-in. refractor for their Albert Road Academy. On three successive occasions he acted as host to the West of Scotland Branch at conversaciones. His genial personality and lovable disposition, no less than his ability and enthusiasm, gained for him the respect and affection of his fellow-Members, and his death comes as a loss to the Branch which will long be keenly felt.