

David Smart, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.S.A., F.R.A.S.

David Smart was born at Welwyn, Herts, on the 18th day of September 1848. He was the youngest son of the late Mr. Daniel Smart, of Craubrook, Kent, and grandson of the late Mr. John Baker Sladen, of Ripple Court, Kent. He was educated at Denmark Hill Grammar School, attending Craubrook Grammar School for a short period before he entered as a student at St. Bartholomew's Hospital when only 17 years of age. He passed his examinations for M.R.C.S. Eng. and L.R.C.P. Lond. as soon as he was 21. He was elected House Surgeon at the Surrey Dispensary, for which appointment he took his L.S.A.

In 1873 he married Miss Mary Thomas, of Usk, who survives him, soon after buying the practice of Dr. Dixon in the Grange Road, Bermondsey, where he lived and worked for nearly 40 years. He was Consulting Surgeon to the Surrey Dispensary, Medical Officer to Bermondsey Workhouse, and Public Vaccinator. The stairs, which are so trying in the workhouse and the high model buildings, no doubt caused the heart trouble to which he succumbed on the 27th of March at the age of 64, leaving two sons and a daughter. He could read when he was only 3 years old, and from infancy delighted in studying the stars, which afterwards led to his deep calculations upon comets, &c. He used to say figures were his greatest solace when he felt worried.

Dr. Smart joined the Liverpool Astronomical Society in 1885, and contributed to its journal, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1889. He was an original member of our Association, and his name appears in the earliest lists of the members of the Lunar and Planetary Sections. Some of his planetary sketches have been reproduced in the Memoirs. He was a very energetic member of the Comet Section, in which he did a certain amount of observing with his 10½-in. reflector; but his principal bent was in the direction of computation of orbits and ephemerides. He entered into the research on the ancient history of Halley's Comet with enthusiasm, and quickly obtained a clear insight into the nature of the work and the precautions required for accuracy. His work in preparing the Memoir of the observations of this comet by members of the Association is still fresh in our memories.

The degree to which Dr. Smart's services on the Council were appreciated is strikingly shown by the fact that he served on it continuously from 1892 to the time of his death, with the exception of the occasional intervals required by our laws.

Dr. Smart's 10½-in. reflector is for sale. It cost 60*l.* when new, but will be sold at a great reduction. Applications should be addressed to Mr. Smart, 108, Grange Road, S.E.

I am indebted to his sister for kind help in preparing the portion of this notice that deals with his home life and professional career.

A. C. D. C.