

*Mr. David Buchanan Duncanson*

Mr. David B. Duncanson, B.Sc., whose death on 1941 September 22 as the result of a road accident in Glasgow is greatly deplored, was a very well-known member of the Scottish Branch. He was seventy-two years of age.

Mr. Duncanson was a student of Dundas Vale Training College and Glasgow University. He gained the degree of Bachelor of Science of London University. After holding teaching appointments in Kent Road and Allan Glen's Schools, Glasgow, he became a lecturer in Dundas Vale Training College. Later he was principal science master in Jordanhill College, from which position he retired in 1935.

In recent years he took an increasingly active part in the affairs of the Scottish Branch of the Association. He was an exceedingly able and fluent speaker, and had the gift of remarkable lucidity in explaining a subject. He also took great pains in the provision of illustrative material—diagrams, lantern slides, etc.—to render clear and interesting whatever matters he was expounding. Whether in lecturing, discussing, or proposing a vote of thanks, his remarks were always illuminating and appropriate, and as a chairman he was particularly successful. Even within the field of astronomy his versatility was shown by the diversity of the subjects he specially studied, which included optical instruments, the grinding of mirrors, telescope construction, mounting and accessories, other astronomical and navigational instruments (historic and modern), and ancient mythology as related to astronomy. He was greatly interested in the life and work of Sir William Herschel, and visited the scenes where

that great astronomer's work was carried on. Like Herschel, Mr. Duncanson had an interest in music, and he was for a time organist of a large Glasgow church. In 1932 he visited Canada and the United States with the eclipse party. The weather conditions prevented the viewing of the eclipse, but Mr. Duncanson visited several observatories in the western continent, and later gave the Scottish Branch interesting accounts of what he had seen and heard there, particularly dealing with the buildings of the great observatories and their giant telescopes, and with the discovery of the remote planet Pluto.

In 1929 Mr. Duncanson was elected to the Council of the Branch. He was President for the Sessions 1931-33. His introductory address was on "The Telescope: its Construction and History," and his retiring address on "Things seen in the Pursuit of a Shadow." He lectured to the Branch on a number of other occasions, and on 1940 October 10 addressed the opening meeting of the session on the subject "Astronomy and the Poets." An outstanding feature of his character was his cheerfulness and humour, and the way in which his remarks frequently enlivened discussion at the meetings was greatly appreciated. During four sessions he gave lectures in astronomy in the Royal Technical College, Glasgow, in connection with the David Elder Endowment.

At Mr. Duncanson's funeral the Scottish Branch of the Association was represented by Messrs. Charles T. Melvin (President), David Kerr and John J. Ross.—J. J. R.