

Rev. F. Howlett, M.A.

The Rev. Frederick Howlett, Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society since 1861, and an original Member of our Association, died at Clifton on the 30th of January, aged 87. Although he took a lively interest in all parts of astronomy, his working activity was almost confined to the subject of the solar spots, of which he was a most assiduous and careful observer, by the method of projection on a screen. During a period of more than 30 years he obtained a long series of valuable drawings, which he afterwards presented to the Royal Astronomical Society, while many papers on those of special interest appeared from time to time in the "Monthly Notices." A very important result was the practical disproof of the so-called Wilsonian phenomenon of the spots and their changing appearance on the disc. Mr. Howlett found no decided instance of such variation of form, which must at least be admitted to prove that even in the cases when the spots are depressions the depth is very small.

For some time Mr. Howlett held a cure near Hawkhurst, where he enjoyed the intimacy of Sir John Herschel, but later he was appointed to the Rectory of East Tisted, Hants, which he held for 30 years, and where his kindly disposition greatly endeared him to his people. He resigned that incumbency shortly after the death of his wife, a sister of Sir Rawson Rawson, and retired to Clifton, where some years ago he had a stroke of paralysis, which incapacitated him from further work, but he continued to the last to take a warm interest in the progress of our science, and to correspond with his many old friends, of whom the writer is proud to have been reckoned as one. He leaves no family. The funeral took place at East Tisted on the 3rd of February.

W. T. L.