

THE REV. F. C. LEES.—Frederick Clare Lees was born at Ashton-under-Lyne on 15th August, 1871. His interest in Natural Science and Chemistry began in early school days, all his available spare time being spent in the laboratory of the Leys School Cambridge. He spent his holidays photographing with a half-plate stand camera, tramping with its heavy weight to some spot of interest, and then home again to compound his own special formulæ for developing and printing. School was followed by a Science and Chemistry Course at Owen's College, Manchester, where he qualified for the post of Manager of the Chemistry side and Laboratories of the Bucton Vale Print Works, a portion of his father's business (Messrs. Gartside & Co., Ltd.) which covered all stages of cotton manufacture, from the raw cotton to the finished printed goods. He developed severe blood-poisoning whilst experimenting with aniline dyes, and had to give up the post, being ill for some time. Enforced leisure turned his interests towards Natural Science and he bought a lens and fitted to it a large tube of teak wood mounted on a tall stand. In fulfilment of his desire to enter the Church he went up to Oxford at a comparatively late age, taking, at the conclusion of four hard-working years, a brilliant degree—First Class in Natural Science. Before being ordained, about 1900, he set out on the exploration of the interior of Iceland, and this

was embodied in a paper read before the Royal Geographical Society, of which he subsequently became a Fellow. In addition to Iceland he travelled in New Zealand, Australia, the South Sea Islands, and West Indies. After his ordination he held several curacies and in 1907 he joined the staff of the Missions to Seamen as Organising Secretary until 1916, when he became Assistant Superintendent, becoming Superintendent in 1921, which appointment he held until his death. He took much interest in many branches of science; he was a member of the Quekett Microscopical Club, and later he became a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. During the war he spent a good deal of spare time—of which he had very little, as his ordinary professional work was closely associated with the Navy—in making munitions in his own home workshop. He also wrote for the *Model Engineer and Electrician*. His interest in wireless was very great and he did much experimental work connected with it, and was President of the Sutton Wireless Society at his death.

He was very fond of the sea and for some time had a small cutter at Littlehampton.

He joined the Association on 19th December, 1894, and after serving on the Council for some years, he was elected Honorary Secretary in 1924, holding this until his death on Thursday, 9th April, 1925.