

Obituary.

George Frederick Chambers.

We regret to record the death of Mr. G. F. Chambers, J.P., Barrister-at-Law, which occurred 24th May, in the 75th year of his age. Mr. Chambers was an original member of the Association, and was elected to the Council in 1893, on which he served, with few interruptions—recently as one of the Vice-Presidents—up to the time of his death. He was appointed Director of the Star Colour Section in 1894, and occupied that position for five or six years, during which he compiled his Catalogue of Red Stars, published in our Memoirs, Vol. IX., Part II. He was particularly interested in coloured and variable stars, and employed his telescopes—a 4-in. Cooke, and more recently a 6-in. Grubb, installed in his observatory at Eastbourne—in scrutinising many of them and estimating their tints and variations. During recent years he took a keen interest in the Solar Eclipse Expeditions, in which many of our members have taken part, and was indefatigable in his efforts to obtain

information as to routes to, and living accommodation available at, the out-of-the-way places it was necessary to visit on these occasions. He had already taken steps to obtain such information with regard to the eclipse of 3rd February next, for the observation of which he appeared to expect—with undue optimism, it is to be feared—that it would be possible to organise an expedition.

Mr. Chambers was also a prolific author, and published many books on astronomical topics. Of these the most successful is, perhaps, his Handbook of Descriptive and Practical Astronomy, which reached a fourth edition, and is widely known. He also was responsible for a revised edition of Smyth's Cycle of Celestial Objects, and, more recently, published the Story of the Comets (1910) and Astronomy (1913), besides some smaller books. He was a regular attendant at our meetings and a frequent speaker on a variety of subjects of astronomical interest.

Mr. Chambers was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1864, and served on the Council of the Society during the years 1886-87.