

DEATH OF MR. H. B. CHAMBERLIN.—The death is announced of Mr. H. B. Chamberlin, formerly of Denver, Colorado, U.S.A., who for some years past has been living in Surbiton. Mr. Chamberlin was well known among Astronomers for his gift of the Chamberlin Observatory to the University of Denver; this is a

fine building containing a 20-in. equatorial; the total cost of the observatory was not less than 17,000*l.*

Mr. Chamberlin had travelled much and had made a point of seeing as many observatories as he could, and making the acquaintance of astronomers. He had promised the British Astronomical Association a paper on the observatories he had seen, and had made some preparation for this at the time of his death.

Although he was born in England his parents took him to America when he was quite young, and he became a naturalised American. He served in the telegraph service during the Civil War, and subsequently entered the drug business, obtaining a good knowledge of chemistry, in which subject he always took much interest. He devoted considerable time to microscopy and mineralogy; at the latter especially he did some original work of appreciable value. Although very busily engaged in commercial pursuits, he found many opportunities for philanthropic work, involving not merely the expenditure of large amounts of money but a great deal of time, thought, and personal trouble. He was especially glad of opportunities of helping young men to obtain good, and especially scientific, education, and he has many times defrayed the college expenses of people in whom he became interested.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and of the British Astronomical Association in 1892, and the University of Port Worth, Texas, bestowed upon him the honorary degree of Ph.D.

He died on Sunday, May 16, while out cycling; he rode from Surbiton to Egham, and after partly riding and partly walking up a hill he mounted his machine, and after riding a short distance fell off and died, practically, instantaneously. The cause of death was syncope, his heart, apparently quite unknown to himself or his family, having been in a weak state for some years. He was at the meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society two days before his death.

His sympathetic and kindly nature won him many friends; he was eminently sociable, and his qualities in this respect enabled him to found with success the American Society in London. Although he never did much work at astronomy he was contemplating at the time of his death the erection of a 6-in. telescope at Surbiton with which he was hoping to work as a member of one or some of the Sections of the British Astronomical Association. Had he lived to carry out this there is no doubt that his training at other scientific work would have been of great assistance to him in astronomical observations.