

THE LATE MR. PERIGAL.—The death of Mr. Henry Perigal, on June 6 last, leaves a blank among the regular attendants of most of the scientific societies. Until the last 12 or 18 months "Father" Perigal, as he was affectionately termed by most of the Members, rarely missed a Meeting of the British Astronomical Association or of the Royal Institution, of the Mathematical or Microscopical, or of the Royal Astronomical and Meteorological Societies. Of this last Society he was for many years Honorary Treasurer. He has written several papers on mechanics and geometry, and his latest little pamphlet on the parabolic curves was issued within the last few years. Of Mr. Perigal's proficiency in geometrical curve-tracing we quote a paragraph from a paper by his devoted friend, Mr. Washington Teasdale, in the "Camera Club Journal," May 1894:—"No one had done so much as Mr. Perigal to analyse, reduce to initial forms, and scientifically classify the possibilities of curve-tracery inherent in the single, double, and triple chuck of Ibbetson." Of the utility of his work in this direction there is ample testimony. Prof. A. De Morgan says, "he has published valuable diagrams in profusion," also, that he is "entirely indebted to him for the illustrations of the article on 'Trochoidal Curves,' published in the 'Penny Cyclopaedia,' without which the article would not have been written." The late Mr. Richard A. Proctor's work on the "Geometry of Cycloids in relation to Planetary Movements" is chiefly illustrated by diagrams from blocks cut in the

lathe by Mr. Perigal. Northcote, in his book on the "Lathe" " gives an illustration of the actual apparatus used, and quotes " as direction and authority for its intelligent use the 39 rules " which Mr. Perigal wrote for the guidance of those desirous of " working with Ibbetson's chucks." To the astronomical world he was chiefly known by his inability to understand that the moon could rotate on her axis whilst presenting a constant face to the earth. He urged his objections to this theory in both prose and verse, and on many occasions he has tried to illustrate its fallacy by experiments with his walking stick in the tea-room of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Mr. Perigal was but one year younger than the century, and he came of a long-lived race. His father, who died at 99, was the 9th in descent from Gideon and Madeline Perigal, who suffered persecution as Huguenots in France, and after the Edict of Nantes escaped to England, where he settled. The family in France could be traced previously to this to the invasion of Normandy by Sigurd Perigal in 908.

Mr. Perigal was an original Member of this Association.