

Henry Hayden Waters

Henry Hayden Waters was born in 1880 December at Coventry, where his father was in business. At the age of sixteen he went to Liverpool to start his apprenticeship with a firm of wood merchants. In 1912 he married, and at about the same time he transferred his services to the firm of Vincent Murphy & Co., wood merchants, with whom he remained until the end—at first in Liverpool until 1919, and latterly in London. He died on 1939 September 14 after a long and painful illness, which necessitated total absence from business and other activities for some eighteen months before the end. He leaves a widow and one son.

Waters's father was greatly interested in Astronomy, and possessed a number of telescopes, including a 6¼-inch Calver reflector, which is still mounted at Waters's home in Harrow. Although he lost his father when only thirteen years of age, it is evident that the seeds of interest had been sown in a fertile soil, because Waters was intensely and actively devoted to Astronomy throughout his life. About the beginning of the century he joined the Liverpool Astronomical Society, where he was held in high esteem by the members for his gift of interesting writing and for his amiable personal qualities. He was Secretary of this Society for some years before and after 1912. In those early years he was already engaged in photography of the sky, endeavouring to capture meteor trails. His little book, *Astronomical Photography for Amateurs*, written in 1921, has been of great service to many, and has been the basis of intimate acquaintanceships which afforded great pleasure to himself and others.

He joined the B.A.A. in 1908 November, but was probably not well known to members before he came to London in 1919. Since then, however, he endeared himself to all who came into contact with him by his unassuming ways, and by the intense and sympathetic interest with which he would discuss anything connected with Astronomy. He served on the Council for some years, but business prevented his regular attendance at the meetings, and for this reason he withdrew his name from the list of candidates for service. He wrote frequent papers and notes for the *Journal*, and was indefatigable in recommending membership of the B.A.A. to anyone he met who displayed an interest in Astronomy.

Having had no engineering training, Waters was fond of declaring that he belonged to the "string and sealing-wax" school of constructionists. It must be said, however, that in his hands the methods of this school proved to be extraordinarily effective. His meteor camera, equatorially mounted and fully automatic—exposing six plates in due sequence in a period of six hours—was made up from the spoils of two old alarm clocks and some "Meccano" fitments, and was a real achievement in construction. His constructional impetus carried him also into the realm of precision clocks, in which he was intensely interested. At least three of these, of the "Hipp"

type, constructed by him and capable of a high degree of precision, are now working in the service of friends to whom he presented them.

To the last his interest in Astronomy and in the doings of the B.A.A. never faltered. His mind was always occupied by schemes, even when it had become apparent to himself that he would not be able to carry them through. In the last few weeks he was engaged in taking a series of observations of time, temperature and barometric pressure, with a view to separating and determining the temperature and barometric errors of his synchronome free pendulum clock. In Waters we have lost a true amateur of the best type, who will live on in the memory and in the esteem of all who knew him.—W. M.