

Correspondence.

JOHN ROBERTSON OF COUPAR ANGUS.—John Robertson died at Coupar Angus, on the 25th of January 1920, in the 90th year of his age.

Long before the B.A.A. was in existence, and when astronomical books and maps were few and expensive, this self-educated astronomer was in his prime.

In 1848, Dr. Thomas Dick, author of "The Solar System," gave a series of lectures on astronomy which John Robertson,

then a youth of 18, attended. It was there that the foundation was laid of that love for astronomy which lasted all his life. As late as August 1917, I had the privilege and pleasure of viewing along with him, through his fine 3-inch refractor by Cooke, a large group of sunspots. The old man's limbs were then feeble, for his daughter (the companion of his last years) had to move and adjust the telescope, but his eyes were undimmed and his intellect unclouded.

John Robertson did much sunspot observation, and in earlier years executed drawings which drew favourable criticism from well-known astronomers, including the then Astronomer Royal, Sir W. H. M. Christie. He also gave considerable attention to meteors and comets. He contributed articles to *The Observatory*, *The Scotsman*, the Dundee daily newspapers, and *The Blairgowrie Advertiser*. His meteorological records extended unbroken for over 40 years. Among his correspondents were Richard A. Proctor, A. S. Herschel, Ralph Copeland, and Sir Robert Ball.

When one thinks of the long hours of work on the Caledonian Railway, one is filled with admiration for the man who accomplished so much in his leisure time. But, a typical Scot of the old school, he believed in and lived up to the motto—"Where there's a will there's a way."

Not only was John Robertson an industrious observer and recorder, he thought much and deeply, as his writings at times showed, of

..... "the one controlling Power that sets
The rhythm of the whirling worlds, and holds
And guides them all in their eternal round."

E. A. STEVENSON.