

James Waddell, M.Inst.C.E.

We regret to note the death of Mr. James Waddell, M.Inst.C.E., of the West of Scotland branch. Mr. Waddell was an enthusiastic and life-long votary of astronomy. Having been elected a member of the Association in January, 1895, he

was connected with the West of Scotland Branch from almost its earliest days. In 1898 he was offered the post of secretary, but found his other duties precluded his accepting it. He took however, an active interest and prominent part in the meetings, and among the many subjects on which he addressed the Members were: Observations of Mercury, Speculations on Mars, Comparative Qualities of Reflecting and Refracting Telescopes, the Student of Astronomy, Aberration, etc. Mr. Waddell gave assiduous service as member of council of the Branch for many sessions, and from 1906 to 1908 occupied its presidential chair with much credit and success. During this term the Branch made much progress in membership and activity, 67 new associates being elected. His professional knowledge of engineering enabled him to give useful advice on the construction and employment of astronomical instruments; in his Retiring Address as President he gave many hints on the selection, testing, and use of telescopes. He was also specially interested in the methods of teaching mathematics, and its application to Astronomy. Circumstances prevented his active participation in Branch work in later years, but he continued to study Astronomy at every opportunity and maintained unabated interest. To his scientific attainments Mr. Waddell added marked literary ability; in especial, he had the gift of putting a scientific discussion into the form of a story, plentifully interspersed with wit and humour. On one or two occasions, papers which he read to the Branch were in such narrative form, relating the experiences and inferences of a hypothetical youthful student, prosecuting his inquiries under the guidance of a tutor. These unique contributions were greatly appreciated in the Branch.