

In Memoriam.

NATHANIEL E. GREEN, F.R.A.S.

Our Members will have learned from the brief notice in the last number of the "Journal" of the sad loss which the Association has sustained in the death of our late President, Mr. N. E. Green. He was so intimately connected with the Association from its foundation, so well known and so much respected, that a brief account of his life and work cannot fail to be welcome, especially to those who were able to attend our Meetings, and who will miss his once familiar face.

Mr. Green was born at Bristol, on August 21, 1823, being the third son of Benjamin H. Green, of that city. He was educated chiefly by his maternal uncle, the Rev. C. Everett, and in 1840 commenced life in a merchant's office in Liverpool. Finding a commercial life uncongenial to him, and having a great love for drawing, he eventually decided to adopt art as his profession, and came to London in 1844, entering the Royal Academy as a student in December of that year. Here he worked side by side with Leighton, Millais, and Rossetti. In 1847 he married Elizabeth Gould, of Cork, and after living for about a year in the West of London, eventually settled in St. John's Wood, where he resided for 49 years, attracted to the neighbourhood by its quiet retirement, and its favourable surroundings for the pursuit of his artistic and astronomical studies. For some years he was a constant exhibitor at the Royal Academy and other galleries, painting both in oil and water colours, but the pressing needs of a large and growing family led him early to adopt teaching as a profession. In this he was eminently successful, and gained a wide-spread reputation. In 1880 he was called to Balmoral, where he had the honour of numbering amongst his pupils, Her Majesty, the Princess of Wales, and other Members of the Royal Family. He was the author of many works on art, principally manuals and other works of a practical kind, which have had a wide circulation.

In 1884 he visited Palestine, where some of the best of his water-colour drawings were made. A succession of dreary winters in London drove him, in 1890, to seek summer skies for his artistic work, and for this cause, as well as for the benefit of his wife's health, he selected Cannes as his winter home. During the six seasons spent there he formed a wide circle of friends, continuing the pursuit of his art till his last visit in 1898-99.

His interest in astronomy dates back to 1859, when he constructed a telescope for himself, and began the long series of observations and drawings which he continued to make till within a year and a half of his death. In 1877, on the occasion of the favourable opposition of Mars, Mr. Green undertook a voyage to Madeira, and there, during August and September, he made the series of admirable drawings of the planet with which his name will always be associated. Their truth and the delicacy of their execution have been so often remarked upon that praise



The Late NATHANIEL E. GREEN, F.R.A.S.,

President, Oct. 1896 to Oct. 1898.

would be superfluous. The foreshortening of the details of the planet's surface as they approach the limb is so perfectly rendered that one feels that it is truly a sphere, and not a flat disk, as it too often appears in other representations. Of the 41 sketches made of the planet with a 13-in. Witt reflector, 12 were reproduced in his Memoir (Mem. R.A.S., Vol. XLIV.), as well as enlarged drawings of the south polar cap, and a map of the planet. He did not see any "canals," and mentioned his impression that the mind was inclined to prolong into a line any elongated dark spot that was imperfectly seen, or to represent by a definite line what was in reality merely the edge of a faint shading.

At the less favourable opposition of 1886, Mr. Green made further studies of Mars, with a map of the northern hemisphere. These were not published, but several of his sketches, and a map of the planet constructed from them, are in the rooms of the Royal Astronomical Society.

He published an important memoir on Jupiter in Mem. R.A.S., Vol. XLIX., giving the results of a series of observations dating from 1859 to 1887. The memoir deals with the general changes on the planet from 1860 to 1887; the Red Spot, 1881 to 1886; the relative altitudes of light and dark markings; and concludes with some considerations on the probable physical condition of the planet. The memoir is illustrated by a series of beautiful drawings.

In the "Journal" of the Selenographical Society (of which Society during its brief existence Mr. Green was an active member) he published a long series of papers on lunar formations, as well as observations of Hyginus N., accompanied by drawings.

Mr. Green was a Member of the Provisional Committee of the British Astronomical Association, and sat on its first Council; was Director of the Saturn Section in 1891, and also in 1895-98. A report of the Section was published in "Memoirs," British Astronomical Association, Vol. II., but his enforced absence from England during the winter compelled him to leave the more active work to the Vice-Director, the late Rev. A. Freeman. Shorter reports of the Section were published in our "Journal," Vols. I., VII., and VIII. Mr. Green was Vice-President of the Association in 1892-93 and 1898-99, and President in 1897-98. In the first volume of the "Journal" is a suggestive paper by him on lunar maria and their possible origin; and in the third volume is a report of an admirable practical lecture on astronomical drawing. In this lecture he mentions that it had been said of him that he preferred an artistic drawing to a correct one, and he characteristically replies, "I know no difference between the two."

In 1896 Mr. Green joined the British Astronomical Association Eclipse Expedition to Norway, and it is much to be regretted that the unfortunate weather prevented the use of his skilful pencil in the delineation of the corona.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1875, and sat on the Council for the year 1888-89.

Mr. Green was a type of the best kind of amateur observer. Possessing great skill in drawing he wisely devoted himself to observations in which his keen sight and true hand enabled him to

secure results of permanent value. For a period of nearly 40 years he continued his astronomical work with unflagging perseverance. His profession often claimed him from 8 o'clock in the morning till 7 in the evening. After a light meal he would commence work with the telescope, often prolonging his study far into the night; on unfavourable evenings he would work with equal assiduity with the microscope.

Besides his published drawings Mr. Green left behind him a great number of sketches of various lunar formations, of Saturn and of Mars, and a long series of drawings of Jupiter.

Not long before his death Mr. Green had taken a house in St. Albans, where he died after a very short illness on the 10th of November, at the age of 76. His widow survives him.