

The late Sir Nathaniel Dunlop.

Sir Nathaniel Dunlop, D.L., LL.D., of Shieldhill, Biggar, Lanarkshire, died on 13th November 1919. The West of Scotland Branch have drawn up the following Minute in reference to his death :—

“ The West of Scotland Branch of the British Astronomical Association wish to place on record their deep sense of the loss sustained by the death of Sir Nathaniel Dunlop, D.L., LL.D. Joining the Branch in February 1896, in the second session of its existence, Sir Nathaniel became a Life Member. Although one so fully occupied in business affairs and in philanthropic and many other departments of public service could necessarily devote only a relatively small proportion of his time and energies to matters of less directly practical bearing, he yet showed a keen interest in science in general and in astronomy in particular, and in the work of this Association in furthering study and investigation therein. At the close of session 1912-13 he was unanimously requested by the Council of the Branch to accept nomination for the office of Honorary Vice-President. While indicating that he had some diffidence in doing so, on account of the fact that his advancing years forbade venturing out in the evenings to attend meetings, he kindly acceded in view of the urgently expressed desire of the Council. During the succeeding three years his tenure of the position was annually continued, and the Branch highly esteemed the honour of reckoning in their list of office-bearers one possessing his distinguished attainments in so many spheres of knowledge and activity. At the close of session 1915-16, when, according to the regulations, his tenure of office necessarily terminated, he addressed to the Annual General Meeting a paper dealing with the mariner's compass and Lord Kelvin's work in perfecting it. The paper, which contained most interesting reminiscences of Sir Nathaniel's association with Lord Kelvin, was much appreciated and enjoyed. Towards the end of last session, when the office of Honorary Vice-President had again to be filled up, the Council unanimously invited Sir Nathaniel to accept nomination for a further term, but were sorry to hear that from failing health he felt obliged to decline.

“ Sir Nathaniel's character furnishes a typical example of the perseverance and industry which have made the name of Scotland illustrious. On 13th November 1919 he passed away, full of years and honours, retaining to the last his active mental powers, and while his death will be a loss to so many good causes, which can ill spare the benefits of his patronage and generous assistance, his memory will remain as an incentive and example to all who in any way came within the influence of his beneficent personality. The Branch desire to express their feelings of sorrow at his demise, and to offer to his daughter and other relatives their respectful sympathy in their bereavement.”