

RICHARD FRIND ROBERTS, A.C.A., F.R.A.S.—On Wednesday morning, June 13, 1917, a fleet of hostile aeroplanes visited the City of London, and dropped bombs on several districts, causing many deaths. The body of Richard Frind Roberts was found inside a doorway, and among the *débris* on the third floor of a building which was practically demolished in the same street was discovered the body of Lilian Rebecca Roberts, his daughter, who acted as his clerk.

Mr. R. F. Roberts was elected a member of the British Astronomical Association on November 29, 1899, and a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society on January 12, 1906, and he was a constant attendant at the meetings of both societies:-

Mr. Roberts and his son were members of the expedition to Algiers to observe the eclipse of May 28, 1900, staying at the Hotel Continental, where he arranged his telescope on the flat roof of the hotel. He observed the first, second, and third contacts, and estimated the length of totality to be 62 seconds. He also observed the "Shadow Bands," which he described as coming on at intervals some five minutes before totality with a kind of rippling movement from a north-westerly direction, the bands themselves lying from N.E. to S.W. He pointed out also that as the eclipse advanced the shadow bands appeared to swerve round towards the south, and some three minutes after totality they were observed to be travelling away to the west, *i.e.*, their directions of motion were opposite before and after totality, although the parallelism of the bands remained more or less the same throughout. He came to the conclusion that they were purely an atmospheric effect. Mr. Roberts also observed "Bailey's Beads," and noted expressly the rugged outline of the Moon's preceding limb as it advanced across the Sun.

Mr. Roberts was a chartered accountant, and was 67 when he lost his life by the enemy attack.