

OBITUARY

Roland L. T. Clarkson

Roland L. T. Clarkson died in Felixtowe Hospital on 10th April, 1954, after an illness lasting some months, throughout which he endeavoured to continue with his astronomical observing. Born in Suffolk in 1889, the study of astronomy was his main interest in life, and he maintained a series of log-books dating from 1906.

Elected a member of the Association on 1st May, 1918, and a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society on 13th December, 1946, he used at various times a number of instruments in his constant night watches, the last, and best-loved, of his telescopes being a 6½-inch reflector now in the possession of the Association. A good amateur artist, he concentrated his attention on lunar and planetary work, and, in recognition of the former, the crater Gassendi A was endowed with his name not long before his death. He did not disdain naked-eye observation, however, and kept a regular watch for auroral activity.

Roland Clarkson lived a solitary life, but was always glad to discuss astrono-

mical matters in person or by correspondence, and would encourage the slightest interest in astronomy shown by any acquaintance. He was instrumental in the establishment of an Astronomical Section of the Ipswich and District Natural History Society, of which he was a member, and with the formation of the Ipswich and District Astronomical Society he became the society's first President, continuing in that office until his death.

Through his death, the Association and astronomy are the poorer by the loss of an observer who, unknown to most members, was one of those men to whose quiet work, and unfailing interest in the night sky, the Association owes a constant debt.—D.J.F.