

Mr. T. Weir.

Mr. Thomas Weir was born at Greenock in 1843. He was educated at the Highlanders' Academy in that town, and received his engineering training with the Greenock Foundry Company. Soon after his apprenticeship expired he came to England and took a position as manager with an engineering firm; subsequently he joined the staff of the Vulcan Boiler and General Insurance Company, and remained in their service till his death.

From early youth Mr. Weir was an earnest student of science. Astronomy became his hobby and monopolised the major portion of his spare time. He became a Member of the British Astronomical Association on its inception in 1890, and when the North-Western Branch of the Association was formed, with its headquarters in Manchester, he acted as its honorary secretary, and much of the success of the Branch was due to the zeal displayed by him in the discharge of his duties in that capacity.

In the year 1896 he went to Vadsö, in Norway, to observe the total eclipse of the Sun, and again to Plasencia, in Spain, for a similar purpose in 1900. On both occasions he made some excellent drawings and diagrams, which were afterwards the subject of several interesting and instructive lectures, which he delivered in and around Manchester.

Mr. Weir was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1899, and when the Manchester Astronomical Society was formed, he was elected its first Honorary Member. In 1902 he was overtaken by a paralytic seizure, from which he never regained his strength, and much to his own sorrow and that of his fellow members he had to retire from the active part he had taken in the organization and its work. Mr. Weir died on the 15th February 1908, in the 65th year of his age.