

THOMAS GWYN EMPER ELGER.—The announcement of the death of Mr. Elger has been received with feelings of the deepest regret. The Lunar Section of the Association, of which he has been the Director for so long, will keenly feel the great loss which it has sustained. On December 29 last, Mr. Elger was seized with an attack of paralysis in the left side, but a few days later he was thought to be fairly on the way towards recovery. The paralysis had passed off, but had left a state of weakness, which it was hoped might be overcome. On Saturday, January 9, however, the patient succumbed to failure of the heart's action. Mr. Elger was born in 1838, and educated at Bedford Grammar School until he was 13 years of age. He subsequently entered at King's College, London, where he studied mathematics under Prof. de Morgan. After completing his course here, Mr. Elger adopted the profession of engineer. His work was by no means confined to astronomy, although it is more particularly his connexion with this branch of science that renders his career of interest to the Association. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in February 1871. He was one of the early Members of the Liverpool Astronomical Society, and was for several years Director of its Lunar Section, and at one time President of the Society. He joined this Association immediately on its inception, and from the first undertook, with his accustomed thoroughness, the direction of the Section devoted to that study which he had made so peculiarly his own—selenography. His name will always be associated chiefly with lunar astronomy, to which he devoted himself and his telescopes. His early training as a draughtsman was of great service to him in his work as a selenographer. His minute descriptions and drawings of the lunar surface have for many years formed a valuable contribution to the "Observatory" magazine and to astronomy generally.

In 1895 he published a book entitled "The Moon: a Full Description and Map of its Principal Physical Features." It is full of interesting detail. Perhaps the achievement most characteristic of the author is the clearly drawn map, which is also published separately. It depicts the moon's surface drawn on a scale of 18 inches to the diameter, and shows every named formation, together with most other features of interest, including the rill systems. As an indication of the painstaking labour involved in the preparation of this map, it may be remarked that Mr. Elger had recourse to photographs and enlargements taken at Lick Observatory and the Royal Observatory of Brussels, the exquisite heliogravures of Prof. Weinek, Director of the Imperial Observatory of Prague, the photographic work at the Paris Observatory, and numerous sketches by experts at home and abroad, besides his own observations. Several years before, Mr. Elger wrote the lunar chapters for two important works, "Celestial Objects for Common Telescopes," by the late Rev. Prebendary Webb, and "Astronomy for Amateurs," by Mr. Westwood Oliver.

On several occasions Mr. Elger took part in the construction of railways in the north of England. He also assisted in the construction of the Menai Bridge and the Underground Railway between King's Cross and Edgware Road, and when he went into practice on his own responsibility he acted as engineer for a firm of contractors who were engaged in laying railroads in Denmark, until this work was stopped by the outbreak of war over the Schleswig-Holstein question in 1864. It was shortly after this time that he set up his first observatory in Caldwell Street, Bedford, and when he removed to Manor Cottage, Kempston, he also erected an observatory in the garden, containing a reflector by Calver of $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches aperture, and a 4-in. refractor by Cook.

His work occupied him until the time of his last illness. Quite recently his Report as Director of the Lunar Section has been received, and his "Selenographical Notes" appear in the "Observatory" for January.

The large number of eminent visitors who attended the funeral, which took place on Tuesday, January 12, testified to the esteem in which the deceased was held. He leaves a widow and two young sons, for whom the deepest sympathy is felt in their bereavement.