

## W. H. S. Monck, M.A.

By the death of William Henry Stanley Monck the British Astronomical Association loses one of the original foundation Committee ; one, moreover, who had much to do with the inception of the Association. A number of astronomers had been in private consultation as to the formation of such an Association, but the first public suggestion was made by Mr. Monck in a letter which appeared in the English Mechanic of July 18th, 1890, and the first steps towards the organisation of the Association followed immediately upon it.

Mr. Monck was born April 21st, 1839, and was the third son of the Rev. Thomas Stanley Monck, Rector of Inistioge, County Kilkenny. He was mainly self-educated, never having been at any school, though for a short time he was instructed by tutors in his father's house ; but on his entry to Trinity College, Dublin, he speedily distinguished himself, and in 1861 he obtained first

mathematical scholarship, first gold medal, and senior moderatorship in logic and ethics, beside the Wray Prize for the encouragement of metaphysical studies. In 1862 he won the Erlington Theological Prize for his essay on Job xi. 7, "Canst thou by searching find out God?" Two years later he obtained his Divinity Testimonium. In 1867 and 1868 he won Fellowship Prizes, in 1875 he was elected a Member of the Council of the College, and in 1878 was appointed Professor of Moral Philosophy. In the meantime he had been studying law, as well as theology and mental philosophy, and was called to the Bar in 1873. Here his mental acuteness and manifest honesty of purpose obtained speedy recognition, and he was appointed Chief Registrar in Bankruptcy, King's Bench Division.

As a writer his publications were numerous and important, chiefly on legal questions, and in the advocacy of reforms relating to imprisonment for debt, the treatment of prisoners, and the need of a Court of Criminal Appeal. Metaphysics also greatly interested him, and he wrote an introduction to Kant's Philosophy, beside a very able Introduction to Logic, published by the Dublin University Press in 1880.

Astronomical questions always had for him a great attraction, and his Introduction to Stellar Astronomy, and the numerous letters on astronomical subjects which he communicated to the British Astronomical Association and to the English Mechanic, are full of originality and suggestiveness.

Mr. Monck was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1886. He died on the 24th of June.

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