

William Thynne Lynn.

We greatly regret to have to record the sudden death of Mr. William Thynne Lynn, B.A., F.R.A.S. Though for many years past his health had been feeble, and for the last three years he had in addition suffered much from neuritis in his right arm, he continued to be indefatigable in his visits to the Reading Room of the British Museum, and in his attendance at the meetings of the Royal Astronomical Society and of this Association. Up to the last he was an early riser, and was accustomed, whatever the state of the weather, to take a long walk on Blackheath before breakfast; but on Monday, December 11, as he was rising, it became evident that he was very ill—the affection soon showing itself as a stroke of paralysis, to which he succumbed in a few hours.

Mr. Lynn was born August 9, 1835, in Sloane Street, and was the eldest son of William Bewicke Lynn, F.R.C.S., and of Ellen his wife, *née* Thynne. His father had served as surgeon in the 5th Fusiliers in the Peninsular War, and was with the Allied Troops at the occupation of Paris after Waterloo. Later, he was for many years Senior Surgeon of Westminster Hospital.

Mr. Lynn passed his boyhood in Claygate, Surrey, and was educated at King's College, London, graduating as B.A. in the University of London in October 1861. He entered the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, as a supernumerary computer in 1854, and remained there for one year, passing thence to the Cambridge Observatory, where he was assistant for about a year and a half. He then returned to Greenwich Observatory as assistant on September 20, 1856; and, at the beginning of 1875, he was promoted to the rank of first-class assistant. Never very robust, he was unable to stand the strain of night observation, and his health compelled him to resign on January 31, 1880.

Mr. Lynn did not allow his retirement from the Observatory to diminish his interest in Astronomy, and he devoted himself chiefly to historical and biographical studies in connection with it, creating for himself quite a special rôle. Painstaking, exact, and well-acquainted with classical literature and the French and German languages, he contributed, chiefly to the Observatory Magazine, many hundreds of short notes, full of interesting and out-of-the-way information. He became a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society on February 14, 1862, and communicated to the Monthly Notices more than 20 papers, mostly short, and dealing with stellar proper motions. He joined this Association on May 30, 1900, serving on the Council for the sessions 1901-04, 1905-08, and 1909 to the time of his decease. He communicated a number of papers, chiefly concerned with classical and mediæval astronomy, or historical details. His death leaves this particular field without any other labourer, no one else seeming to possess his experience, knowledge, or antiquarian zeal; and the fact that, after the breakdown of his health necessitated his retirement from Greenwich, he should have thus been able to work out for himself this important and special line of research is a fresh illustration of the truth that difficulties are the opportunity of the earnest man.

Mr. Lynn took also a deep interest in church work and was made a lay reader in the diocese of Rochester in 1880, and worked in connection with St. Mark's Church, Deptford, up to 1904.

He was buried in Lee Cemetery on Friday, December 15, 1911, and the funeral service, which was held at All Saints' Church, Blackheath, was attended by a large number of friends and relatives, beside representatives of the Royal Astronomical Society, the British Astronomical Association, and the Royal Observatory, Greenwich.