

The American journal, *Mechanical Engineering*, for August, contains a notice of the death, at the ripe age of eighty-three, of the well-known engineer, Worcester Reed Warner, who, in association with Ambrose Swasey, was the constructor of several of the world's greatest telescopes. The engineering business of the Warner and Swasey Company was established in 1881, and almost from the first the firm became widely known in two apparently totally unrelated fields, viz., turret lathes and astronomical telescopes.

It is of interest to learn that Mr. Warner drew his first astronomical inspiration from O. M. Mitchell's "Planetary and Stellar Worlds," which had been given to him by his parents, and that he had become a successful amateur telescope-builder at quite an early stage of his engineering career. Practical experience, however, soon convinced him that the great size of modern telescopes had entirely outgrown the "laboratory apparatus" type of mounting, and he therefore took up the construction of telescopes on purely mechanical principles, so that the instruments turned out by his company were actual specimens of engineering, rigid in structure yet precise in their motions and convenient in their control. The soundness of his views in this respect is now apparent to the whole world, for mention need only be made of such Warner and Swasey achievements as the 36-inch Lick telescope, the 40-inch Yerkes telescope, the 72-inch telescope for the Dominion of Canada, and the 60-inch telescope for the Argentine National Observatory.

Mr. Warner, who maintained a fine private observatory at his home at Tarrytown, New York, had been a member of our Association since November, 1898, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society a year later. W. A. P.