

Obituary.

W. H. MAW, LL.D.

DR. WILLIAM HENRY MAW was born at Scarborough on December 6, 1838, and died at his London residence in Addison Road on March 19, at eighty-five years of age.

Dr. Maw obtained his professional training on the Great Eastern Railway at Stratford, first as apprentice and then as chief draughtsman. During that time he made the acquaintance of Mr. Zerah Colburn, and wrote for him the part of a treatise on locomotives relating to valve gears. In 1865 Mr. Zerah Colburn founded the journal *Engineering*, and Dr. Maw joined the editorial staff. On the retirement of Mr. Colburn in 1870, Dr. Maw and Mr. James Dredge purchased the paper, and were soon joined by Mr. A. T. Hollingsworth, and under their joint editorship early difficulties were overcome and the success of the journal established. Dr. Maw's services in the management were continued until his death, a period of fifty-eight years. From the first he set a high standard for the quality of the illustrations, and the technical and scientific accuracy of the descriptive matter, and *Engineering* became probably the most influential technical journal in Great Britain.

Dr. Maw took a very active interest in many scientific and technical societies. He joined the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in 1873, was elected a member of Council in 1890, and president in 1901. He gave energetic service on Committees down to the time of his death, especially on the Marine Engine Trials, the Gas Engine, the Steam Jacket, and Friction of Gears Committees. He joined the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1896, was elected member of Council in 1911, and president in 1922. In addition to a valuable presidential address on engineering developments, he gave in 1908 the James Forrest lecture on "Unsolved Problems in Engineering." In 1923 the Iron and Steel Institute conferred on him the Bessemer medal.

In 1901 Dr. Maw played an important part in the foundation of the British Engineering Standards Association, which has rendered such invaluable economic services to the engineering industry. He was a member of the main committee until his death, and gave most useful expert assistance as chairman of the Committee on Publications and Calculations. During the War he was a member of various committees appointed by the Ministry of Munitions.

During the thirty years 1890 to 1920, Dr. Maw took a very prominent part in the work both of the Royal Astronomical Society and of the British Astronomical Association. He served almost continuously on the Councils of both bodies, and was treasurer of the Royal Astronomical Society from 1900 to 1905, and president from 1905 to 1907. His two presidential addresses, on presenting the gold medal of the Society to Profs. W. W. Campbell and E. W. Brown, were very useful documents, containing full and clear accounts of progress in stellar spectroscopy and lunar theory. He also held successively the offices of treasurer and president in the British Astronomical Association, and was always ready to place his intimate knowledge of the methods of reproduction of photographs and other astronomical illustrations at the service of the Association. He had an astronomical observatory at his town house and also at his country residence at Outwood,

Surrey. His work consisted mainly in the measurement of double stars, but also included a study of the lunar and planetary surfaces. But his services to astronomy were by no means limited to his own observations; his enthusiasm and readiness to help the work both of corporate bodies and of individuals will long be remembered.

Dr. Maw's connexion with his great journal gave him knowledge of engineering affairs all over the world, and he had intercourse with most engineers in the Colonies and abroad. In spite of his incessant industry, he was always genial and accessible to those who asked for his assistance. All who knew him could testify to his kindness and his readiness to place his store of knowledge and experience at their service.

DR. W. DE GRAY BIRCH.

WE regret to record the death of Dr. W. de Gray Birch, which took place at Monte Carlo on March 8. Dr. Birch was in his eighty-third year, having been born on January 1, 1842. The son of Dr. Samuel Birch, Keeper of the Department of Oriental Antiquities in the British Museum, he entered the MSS. Department of the Museum at the age of twenty-two, after being educated at Charterhouse and Trinity College, Cambridge. He became senior assistant in the following year, and held that post for thirty-eight years until his retirement in 1902, when he became curator of the library of the late and the present Lord Bute.

Dr. Birch's special branches of study were charters, especially of the Anglo-Saxon period, and seals, but he was also an authority on Anglo-Saxon, medieval Latin, Portuguese, and Spanish. Of a large number of his published works, the most important are the "Cartularium Saxonicum" and the "Catalogue of Seals in the British Museum." He also wrote a history of Scottish seals and edited the Royal Charters of the Cities of London and Lincoln, a history of Domesday Book, as well as a number of other works dealing with medieval, ecclesiastical, and monastic records. These include a catalogue of Saxon abbots and histories of Margam and Neath Abbeys, "Memorials of the See and Cathedral of Llandaff," and an edition of the Register of Hyde Abbey, Winchester. In all matters relating to literary and record research, and especially on questions of handwriting, he was an acknowledged expert. For twenty-two years he edited the Journal of the British Archæological Association, of which he was successively honorary secretary, treasurer, and vice-president.

Dr. Birch was an honorary LL.D. of Glasgow, and an honorary corresponding member of the Royal Academies of Seville and Turin, an honorary member of the Hispanic Society of America, and a vice-president of St. Paul's Ecclesiastical Association.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. R. E. Froude, F.R.S., lately Superintendent of the Admiralty Experimental Works, Gosport, on March 19, aged seventy-seven.

Dr. William Jack, formerly professor of mathematics in the University of Glasgow, on March 20, aged eighty-nine.

Sir William MacEwen, professor of surgery in the University of Glasgow and president in 1922 of the British Medical Association, on March 22, aged seventy-five.