

WILLIAM ELDER, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., was educated at the Knox Institute, Haddington, and Edinburgh University. He became a Resident Physician in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, and in 1893, after assisting in general practice in Kirkcaldy, Manchester, and Leith, he was appointed Assistant Physician to Leith Hospital. From 1894 until 1909 he was Physician with full charge of wards, and from 1909 was Consulting Physician to the Hospital. He was the author of several important medical works and a frequent contributor to medical journals.

Dr Elder was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1904, and died in Edinburgh on 2nd July 1931, aged 66.

JOHN EDWARD GEMMELL, M.B., C.M. (Edin.), became House Surgeon at the Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, and Demonstrator in Pathology and Holt Scholar in Pathology and Physiology at University College. Later he held the appointments of Honorary Consulting Surgeon to the Hospital for Women, and to the Maternity Hospital, Liverpool. Dr Gemmell was a past President of the Liverpool Medical Institute, and was twice President of the North of England Obstetrical and Gynæcological Society. He was the author of papers in the *Brit. Journ. of Obstetrics and Gynæcology*, 1905, 1908, with A. L. Robinson in the *Lancet*, 1921, and in the *Med. Pres. Circ.*, 1926, etc.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1914, and died on 24th January 1931, aged 68.

CHARLES ROBERT GIBSON, LL.D. (Glas.), who was born in 1870, was a well-known writer of popular science books. From 1922 until 1925 he was President of the Royal Philosophical Society of Glasgow. Dr Gibson did most of his literary work whilst actively engaged in business as head of the firm of Gibson Bros., curtain manufacturers, Pollokshaws.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1910, and died on 6th January 1931. (See also notice in *Proc. Roy. Phil. Soc. Glas.*, vol. lix, 1930-31, p. 59.)

JOHN ANGUS MACDONALD, M.A., B.Sc., lately Science Master, King Edward VII College, Johannesburg, died in Edinburgh on 28th June 1931.

He graduated at Edinburgh University in Arts in 1895 and in Science in 1896. In the course of his University career, in addition to graduating with honours, he obtained the Neil Arnott Prize in Physics and the John Edward Baxter Scholarship in Mathematics. Mr Macdonald was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1904.

ERNEST ROMNEY MATTHEWS, M.Inst.C.E., was born on 16th January 1873, and educated at St Michael's School, Hastings. His father, Chief Officer of the Coast Guards at Hastings, was one of the few survivors of the troopship *Birkenhead*. He held the appointment of Chief Drainage Engineer to H.M. Office of Works, and was formerly Chadwick Professor of Civil Engineering in the University of London. He addressed the British Association on Coast Erosion, gave evidence before the Royal Commission, and also supplied the Royal Commission on Canals and Waterways with data on the silting of estuaries. He was Bessemer and Nursery Prizeman of the Society of Engineers, a medallist of the Royal Society of Arts, and a former member of the Councils of the Institution of Municipal and County Engineers and the Royal Sanitary Institute. Professor Matthews rendered distinguished service as Commanding Officer, during the War, of the 34th and 57th Sanitary Sections, B.E.F., was twice mentioned in dispatches and received the 1914 star. His publications include *Coast Erosion and Protection*, *Reinforced-Concrete Construction* (joint-author), *Refuse Disposal*, *Logarithms and Trigonometry* (joint-author), *Dam Construction*, and many papers to the technical journals.

He was elected a Fellow in 1902, and died on 6th November 1930, aged 57.

ALBERT ABRAHAM MICHELSON, Nobel Laureate, Physics, 1907, was born in Strelno, Poland, on 19th December 1852. He was Professor of Physics in the University of Chicago from 1892 until 1929, and was probably best known for his wonderful experimental work to detect any effect of the earth's rotation on the velocity of light.

He was elected a Foreign Honorary Fellow of the Society in 1910, and died on 9th May 1931. (For details of his life and work see notice in *Proc. Roy. Soc. Lond.* (not yet published), *Nature*, 16th May 1931, and other notices.)