

Library.

The Council desire to thank Professor M. F. FitzGerald for copies of "Flapping Flight of Aeroplanes" and "On Flapping Flight"; Mr. Harold Sadler for a copy of "Aerostation: A narrative of the Aerial Voyage of Mr. Wyndham Sadler across the Irish Channel, July 22, 1817," and "An Authentic Narrative of the Aerial Voyage across the Irish Channel by Mr. Sadler, October 1, 1812," together with a coloured engraving of Mr. Sadler and part of the balloon with which he ascended from Dublin, October 1, 1812.

OBITUARY.**LIEUTENANT RICHARD T. GATES.**

We deeply regret to record the death of Lieutenant Richard T. Gates, which occurred on the 14th September, from injuries received while descending from a patrol flight on the night of Thursday, September 10th.

As everyone knows, the late Member was the maker of the London Aerodrome, and on the outbreak of war, when the Aerodrome was taken over by the Royal Naval Air Service, he was commissioned as Flight Lieutenant for special service. It was while returning from a night reconnaissance above London that Lieutenant Gates apparently misjudged his distance above the ground, was hurled from his machine when it struck the ground, and sustained amongst other injuries a dislocated neck. The extent of the loss that aviation has sustained will only be fully realised when, after the war, the London Aerodrome is faced with the difficulty of finding his successor.

The funeral took place, with full naval honours, on Thursday, September 17th, at Hendon Church. The Society sent a wreath, and was represented by Mr. J. H. Ledebøer, B.A.

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER THOMAS FLEMING BESANT, R.N.

We very much regret to have to record the death of Lieutenant-Commander Thomas Fleming Besant, R.N., a member of the Society since 1909. He was in command of the Australian submarine A.E.1 when she disappeared recently with all hands.

The dead officer, who was 30 years of age, was a nephew of the late Sir Walter Besant, the famous novelist, and lived at Chatham. His skill as a seaman may be judged from the fact that under his command the A.E.1, with her sister ship A.E.2, travelled the 12,500 miles from Portsmouth to Sydney under her own power early this year, escorted by only a small cruiser.

