the night or early morning of 21st June 1874 he had, as he thought, extinguished the gas in his small bachelor bedroom, but unfortunately had left the stop-cock open, and it was his not making any movement in the morning that attracted the notice of the servants; one of them entering his room found him insensible, in an atmosphere strongly charged with gas, and, seeing at once what had happened, sagaciously opened the window, and got him to swallow some stimulant. His medical attendants succeeded in rousing him from his comatose state, and he seemed in the fair way of recovery, but a low congestive inflammation of the lungs supervened, and proved fatal on the 4th of July.

7. Biographical Notice of Christopher Hansteen. By Alexander Buchan, Esq.

Christopher Hansteen was born at Christiania on the 26th of September 1784. In 1802 he entered the University of Copenhagen as a student of law, which, however, he soon abandoned for what was to him the more congenial study of mathematics. He became mathematical tutor in the Gymnasium of Fredericksburg, in the Island of Zealand, in 1806, and about the same time he gained the prize which had been offered by the Royal Society of Sciences of Copenhagen for the best essay on terrestrial magnetism. Shortly thereafter, viz., in 1814, he was appointed to the chair of astronomy in the University of Christiania, which had recently been founded by Frederick VI. of Norway.

He continued to prosecute his researches into terrestrial magnetism with ardour and success, the results of which appeared in his great work, entitled "Untersuchungen über den Magnetismus der Erde," which was published in 1819 by the liberality of the King of Norway. The work was illustrated with an atlas of maps, and besides containing the fullest and best collection of observations on terrestrial magnetism which had then appeared, it was remarkable for great breadth of treatment and sound philosophical generalisations.

In continuing the prosecution of his physical researches, he made a journey into Siberia, accompanied by Ermann and Due, the expenses of the expedition being defrayed by the Norwegian

Government. One of the most important results of this expedition was the establishment, on Humboldt's recommendation, of the ten magnetical and meteorological observatories by the Emperor of Russia, at which hourly observations were recorded for many years, and annually published *in extenso* by the Russian Government, the whole forming the completest record of these phenomena we yet possess.

Shortly after his return from Siberia the Norwegian Government voted the funds for building an astronomical and meteorological observatory at Christiania, which was erected under Hansteen's direction. He also superintended the trigonometrical and topographical survey of Norway, which was begun in 1837.

The completion of his fifty years' public services was commemorated in 1856, shortly after which he ceased to lecture, and in 1861 retired altogether from public duty. He died on the 11th April 1873, at the advanced age of 88.

8. Biographical Notice of Jacques-Adolphe-Lambert Quetelet. By Alexander Buchan. Esq.

Jacques-Adolphe-Lambert Quetelet.—On 17th February 1874 Quetelet died at Brussels, in the seventy-eighth year of his age, having been born at Ghent on 22d February 1796. At the age of 18 he was appointed Professor of Mathematics in the College at Ghent; and in July 1819, the degree of Doctor of Science was conferred on him by the University of the same town, which had just been founded by King William. His dissertation on the occasion was so well received that he was shortly thereafter appointed to the Chair of Mathematics in the Royal Athenæum of Brussels. In February following he was elected a member of the Academy of Sciences and Belles-Lettres.

The earliest of Quetelet's published memoirs, which began to be issued in 1820, were on geometrical subjects. He soon, however, directed his attention more exclusively to physics and astronomy, and lectured publicly on these subjects with great success.

In 1823 he was sent to Paris to report on the observatory of that city, for the guidance of the Belgian Government in founding a similar observatory at Brussels. After some delay the observatory