

## OBITUARY.

*The late Mr. Peter Gray, F.R.A.S.*

THE demise of Mr. Peter Gray, one of our most esteemed honorary members, and one of the most prolific writers on the science of life contingencies, demands more than a passing notice in the pages of this *Journal*, to which so many of his valuable contributions were addressed.

Mr. Gray was a native of Aberdeen, and educated there in the Institution then known as "Gordon's Hospital" (since incorporated as "Gordon's College"), where he enjoyed the privilege then accorded under its constitution, as one of the most meritorious pupils, of being sent for two years to the University classes. Here he developed and improved the taste for mathematics, for which he was afterwards so distinguished, and (with the sole desire to assist the studies of a close personal friend) afterwards took a special interest in the study of life contingencies, securing a position rarely attained by an amateur not in the ranks of the actuarial profession. His numerous and valuable contributions to our columns are too well-known to require comment at this time, while his disinterested labours undertaken in organizing and preparing for publication the tables deduced from the *Mortality Experience* issued by the Institute, have well merited the warmest

acknowledgments. At the date of his earlier works, nearly coincident with that of the establishment of this *Journal*, the amount of literature bearing upon the subject of Life Assurance was so limited, that Mr. Gray may be considered a pioneer in the cause; and his *Tables and Formula* is yet valued as a text-book for the training of the young student. His style of writing was luminous and exhaustive, and the generous assistance which he so readily accorded to any members requiring it, secured for him a lasting remembrance in their esteem and affection. He was a man of varied accomplishments, and as a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical and Royal Microscopical Societies, was distinguished by his knowledge of optics and of applied mechanics.

Mr. Gray was in his eightieth year, and leaves an only sister to regret his loss.

In addition to the introduction to the *Institute of Actuaries' Life Tables*, already spoken of, which may be regarded as the crowning work of Mr. Gray's long and useful life in this branch of study, the following contributions to this *Journal* are among his most important productions:

- On the Doctrine of Successive Lives, ii, 1 and 271.
- On Mr. Gompertz's Method for the Adjustment of Tables of Mortality, vii, 121.
- On the Construction and Use of Commutation Tables, x, 84, 169, and 220.
- On Mr. Makeham's Modification of Mr. Gompertz's Theory of the Law of Mortality, xi, 236.
- On the Construction of Tables by the Method of Differences, xiii, 61, 149, and 293; xiv, 307.
- On the Arithmometer of M. Thomas (de Colmar), xvii, 249; xviii, 20 and 123.

It should also be noted that Mr. Gray specially constructed for the *Institute Text-Book (Part I)*, an extensive table of values of  $\log_{10}(1+i)$ , appending thereto an interesting note on the calculations.

---