

kind from other localities which would help to solve problems connected with the wind systems in past ages.

J. FAIRGRIEVE.

### Geophysical Meetings of the Royal Astronomical Society.

The series of meetings for the discussion of geophysical subjects, which have been held in the rooms of the Royal Astronomical Society, Burlington House, for several years past, will be resumed for the coming winter session on November 5. All Fellows of the Royal Meteorological Society are invited. As at present arranged the meetings will be held on the following Fridays at 5 p.m.:

Nov. 5, 1920 . . . . .	Geodesy.	March 4, 1921 . . . . .	Seismology.
Dec. 3, " . . . . .	Terrestrial Magnetism.	May 6, " . . . . .	Meteorology.
Feb. 4, 1921 . . . . .	To be arranged.	June 17, " . . . . .	Geodesy.

Fuller particulars will appear in *Nature* or can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, Royal Astronomical Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.1.

## OBITUARY.

### Colonel A. BIBBY.

On May 10, at his home at Selborne, Hants, occurred the death of Colonel Alfred Bibby, late of Harthill, Allerton. He was the third son of the late John Bibby, the head of the firm of Messrs. John Bibby, Sons and Co., of Liverpool. Colonel Bibby had a successful army career many years ago, and was wounded in the Egyptian campaign, receiving the rank of Brevet Lieut.-Colonel for his services. Two of his sons gave their lives in the late war, which contributed to the ill-health from which Col. Bibby suffered and probably hastened his death.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society on January 16, 1907.

### Mr. W. N. BLAIR, M.Inst.C.E.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. William Nisbet Blair, which occurred very suddenly at his residence at West Hill, Highgate, on July 15. Mr. Blair was born at Morpeth, Northumberland, on June 24, 1858, and early chose as his profession that of Civil Engineer. After some years' work in Manchester and Nottingham he obtained his first chief appointment in December 1885 as Borough Surveyor of Bootle, Lancs. From there he was appointed Chief Surveyor to the Vestry of St. Pancras in January 1892, continuing his duties as Chief Engineer under the Borough Council until his death.

Mr. Blair was a Freeman of the City of London; a Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers; a Member of the Institution of Municipal and County Engineers, of which body he was President in 1909-10; a Fellow and former Examiner of the Royal Sanitary Institute; and a Member of the Liverpool Engineering Society. He was also connected with University College, London, for several years as Lecturer and Examiner in Civil Engineering.

Mr. Blair was elected a Fellow of this Society on December 20, 1894.

### Air Commodore R. M. GROVES, C.B., D.S.O., A.F.C.

With much regret we have to announce the death of Air Commodore Robert Marsland Groves, D.S.O., which occurred as the result of a flying accident at Heliopolis, Egypt, on May 27.

Air Commodore Groves, who recently completed his 40th year, had had a very distinguished career in the Navy and the Air Force. At the outbreak of war he was one of the leading wireless officers at the Admiralty, but after a short time transferred to the Air Service. He commanded airships and subsequently held several important positions under the Air Board, becoming Deputy Chief of the Air Staff and more recently Acting Chief of the Air Force in the Middle East.

Air Commodore Groves was elected a Fellow of this Society on January 17, 1917.

#### Mr. T. W. RUNDELL.

We have to announce the sudden death from heart failure of Mr. Towson William Rundell, which took place at his residence at Lostwithiel, Cornwall, on June 17. Mr. Rundell retired from business life some years back, and subsequently lived in a quiet manner in Cornwall, where he hoped to regain his lost health. He was much respected by his neighbours and friends, and his death is deeply regretted.

Mr. Rundell was a Life Fellow of this Society, having been elected on March 15, 1899.

#### General M. A. RYKATCHEFF, Honorary Member.

At the end of 1919 a brief statement in *Terrestrial Magnetism* referred to the death of General M. A. Rykatcheff, and although no further announcement has up to the present been made, it is assumed, in view of General Rykatcheff's advanced age, that the reference is unfortunately correct. The following particulars refer briefly to the events of his career in connection with his scientific work. Michail Alexandrowitsch Rykatcheff was born in Nikola-jewskoje, Russia, on December 24, 1840 (old style). He entered the Russian Navy in 1855; studied at the Marine Academy, 1862-1864, and at Greenwich, 1865-1866; became an officer of the Russian Navy in 1859 and held the rank of General-Lieutenant. In 1867 he entered the Central Physical Observatory in Petrograd, and in 1896 became Director of the Russian Meteorological Service, from which position he retired in 1913. He was a member of the Russian Geographical Society and of the Petrograd Academy of Sciences. He was appointed member of the International Meteorological Committee in 1896, and later became President of the International Commission on Terrestrial Magnetism.

He was the author of a large number of papers on meteorology and terrestrial magnetism, and also of a History of the Central Physical Observatory for the 50 years 1849-1899. Under his direction the comprehensive *Climatological Atlas of the Climate of Russia* was prepared and published in 1900.

He was elected an Honorary Member of this Society on March 21, 1900, and made several contributions to the *Quarterly Journal*.

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## REVIEWS.

*Variation in Solar Radiation and the Weather.* By H. HELM CLAYTON. Introductory Note by C. G. ABBOT. Washington, D.C., Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Vol. 71, No. 3, 1920. Pp. vi + 53, pls. 5.

The present paper is the most promising attempt yet made to find some fundamental cause of the puzzling irregular variations in the state of the