William Abney's personality was brought out during his annual summer visits to his beloved mountains. There, among the monarch peaks, glaciers, and snowfields of the Swiss, French, and Italian Alps, he was at his best, a most delightful companion, from whom one learnt something of value almost every moment, and by association with whom one learnt to appreciate the beauty and the "call" of that magnificent world, high up above the vain ambitions and struggles of the world below, in a manner which became one of the highest experiences of one's life. For Sir William was not merely a man of science; he was also both a philosopher and an artist.

He saw and realised the beauty of the natural world as few perceive it, and he had quite a gift of expressing it in water-colours, yet was never satisfied, because he alone understood in so unique a manner how utterly inadequately the pure colours of sky and sea, landscape, and the eternal snows of the Alps can ever be imitated in pigments. And the luncheons on the ice, high up above the Alpine valleys, or the after-dinner talks when the expeditions were over, with the congenial company of distinguished climbers, such as his old friends, Mr. Horace Walker and his sister, Miss Lucy Walker, Mr. Matthews, Mrs. Jackson, Mr. Eccles, Miss Venables, and M Loppé—these are all memories of Sir William in his happiest moments, when, with Lady Abney and Miss Janet Abney, and often other members of his family, the most delightful anecdotes and stories from his immense répertoire used to delight all within earshot.

Sir William was the eldest son of Canon Abney, of Measham Hall, Leicestershire, and was born on July 24, 1843. He was educated at Rossall, and became Lieut. R.E. in 1861, and Capt. in 1873. He was president of the Royal Astronomical Society from 1893 to 1895, and of the Physical Society from 1895 to 1897. He was also chairman of the Royal Society of Arts in 1904. He was created K.C.B. in 1900, and was Hon. D.Sc. and D.C.L. of several universities. He was Principal Assistant Secretary, Board of Education, from 1899 to 1903. Besides his very numerous scientific memoirs to the Royal Society and other learned societies, he is perhaps best known for his published books, the chief of which are: "Instruction in Photography" (1870), "Treatise on Photography" (1875), "Colour Vision," "Colour Measurement and Mixture" (1893), "Thebes and its Five Great Temples" (1876), "The Pioneers of the Alps" (with C. D. Cunningham, 1888), and "Trichromatic Theory of Colour" (1914).

The moment, however, is not one for the appraisement of so full a life of scientific work, for the loss of his many-sided delightful personality is too fresh upon us. It is rather of the kindly, genial, and altogether lovable man himself that we think, and deplore the fact that nevermore shall we see his burly form and jovial face, and hear his cheery words, ever full of inspiration to all that was highest and best.

A. E. H. TUTTON.

MR. WILSON HARTNELL, who died on November 10 in his eighty-second year, was well known in connection with his work on steam-engine governors. He was elected a member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in 1872, and his paper on automatic expansion gears, read in 1882, has been a mine from which hosts of engineers interested in governors have extracted theorems and data of great practical value.

SIR FREDERICK TAYLOR, BT., who died on Thursday, December 2, was born in 1847, and received his medical training at Guy's Hospital. He proceeded to the degree of M.D. at London University in 1870, and was university scholar in obstetric and forensic medicine; later he represented the university on the General Medical Council. Sir Frederick was appointed consulting physician to Guy's Hospital, and remained in close touch with that institution throughout his life; he was also physician to the Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich. In 1907 he delivered the Harveian Oration. His career reached its culminating point when he was elected president of the Royal College of Physicians, and had illness not intervened he would probably have been re-elected for a second term of office. Sir Frederick was the author of numerous contributions to medical societies and journals, although he is probably best known for his "Practice of Medicine," a standard work which has reached its eleventh edition.

Notes.

IT has been generally understood that the Water Power Resources Committee of the Board of Trade has for some time been considering the possibility of tidal-power development, with special reference to the Severn estuary. In view of this it would be of interest to know to what extent the scheme formulated by the Ministry of Transport has been influenced by the conclusions of that Committee. As outlined and illustrated in the *Times* of November 26, the scheme would appear to be open to certain weighty objections, and, in view of the large number of technical problems, alike in mechanical, electrical, and hydraulic engineering, which require to be co-ordinated and solved before any such scheme can be embarked upon with any certainty of ultimate success, there would not appear to be any likelihood of its materialising immediately. At the same time the prospects of the scheme, should it prove commercially and mechanically feasible, are so great that every endeavour should be made to have the matter investigated in the fullest detail by a strong technical and scientific Commission. As pointed out in NATURE of June 3 last, much still requires to be known on such questions as those regarding the effect of the proposed barrage on the