

as consultants. Sir Edward Frankland was the first president, and he was followed by Sir Frederick Abel; but it was during Odling's occupancy of the chair, and largely owing to his influence, that the charter was granted in 1885. Although it is vain to look in the Royal Society Catalogue of Scientific Papers for outstanding discoveries the result of experimental work under Odling's name, it should not be forgotten that he contributed several very important articles on theoretical subjects to Watts's "Dictionary," and among them one on atomic weights, in which he came very near the discovery of the periodic law now always associated with the name of Mendeléeff.

In 1872 Odling married the only daughter of Alfred Smee, F.R.S., inventor of "Smee's battery," and formerly surgeon to the Bank of England, and by her he left three sons. Mrs. Odling died about four years ago, and this loss seems to have affected her husband seriously; however, when visited in January only a few weeks before his death his mental activity seemed undiminished, and he was ready to talk of old times. W. A. T.

THE death of MR. C. GROVER, of Rousdon, Devonshire, on February 16, removes from the list of variable star observers a notable figure. There are now thirty-five years' observations made with the same instrument (a 6.4-in. refractor by Merz and Cooke, with low-power eye-piece of 25 by Steinheil) by the same observer on the same plan, and with remarkable regularity and

continuity. The first half of these observations were collected and discussed in vol. lv. of the R.A.S. Memoirs, but an equal contribution can now be added with a natural termination. This work was planned by the late Sir Cuthbert Peek, who took a personal share in its inception. Since Sir Cuthbert's death in 1900 it has been continued by his son, Sir Wilfred Peek. Mr. Grover would have been seventy-nine on March 7, and continued at his regular work until the very day preceding his death. There can seldom have been a more single-minded piece of astronomical work.

THE death of MR. JOHN CLARKE HAWKSHAW on February 12 is recorded in *Engineering* for February 18. Mr. Hawkshaw, who was eighty years of age at the time of his death, was the son of the late Sir John Hawkshaw, whose name is associated with so many important engineering works. Mr. Hawkshaw was associated with the construction of the Albert Dock, Hull, the Severn Tunnel, etc., and assisted his father in investigations with the Channel Tunnel and many other schemes. He was elected a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1867, became member of council in 1889, and held the office of president in 1902-3.

IT is announced in *Science* for February 4 that MARY WATSON WHITNEY, emeritus professor of astronomy, and from 1889 to 1910 director of the observatory of Vassar College, New York State, died on January 20, aged seventy-three years.

Notes.

THE following fifteen candidates have been selected by the council of the Royal Society to be recommended for election into the society:—Dr. W. E. Agar, Dr. F. W. Aston, Prof. W. L. Bragg, Dr. W. T. Calman, Dr. A. H. Church, Prof. G. Dreyer, Prof. W. H. Eccles, Dr. J. C. G. Ledingham, Mr. C. S. Middlemiss, Prof. K. J. P. Orton, Dr. J. H. Parsons, Prof. J. C. Philip, Dr. A. A. Robb, Sir E. Tennyson D'Eyncourt, and Mr. G. Udny Yule.

THE Royal Society administers two funds, the Gore Fund and the Trevelyan Fund, which have been bequeathed to the society for the promotion of scientific research. There is a balance in hand of about 200l., and the president and council would be glad to consider applications for the whole or part of this balance. Applications should be sent to the Secretaries of the Royal Society, Burlington House, London, W.1, before April 15, stating the sum asked for and the way in which it is proposed to spend it, and enclosing any references or other documents the applicant may think fit.

THE combined meeting of organising committees of the Sections of the British Association, held at Burlington House on Friday last, February 25, was so helpful in many respects that it might very well

become an annual event. The meeting was called to consider various suggestions as to the number and grouping of Sections, presidential addresses, and other subjects discussed in the recent correspondence in *NATURE* and elsewhere, and also to facilitate the arrangement of joint programmes between two or more Sections for the annual assembly at Edinburgh in September next. At the general session it was agreed that the number of Sections should not be reduced, but that voluntary grouping for the consideration of subjects of common interest was desirable. The council (through the general officers) was empowered to fix hours of addresses and discussions, and the view was approved that the oral delivery of presidential addresses should be optional, as well as that the addresses themselves might be used to open discussions. It was also decided that the council should invite the recorders of Sections, or their nominees, to be present at meetings of council when presidents of Sections are elected. Organising committees will thus, through their representatives, be able to put forward their views as to new sectional presidents. Several important joint discussions were arranged for the forthcoming meeting, among them being one between the Sections of Physics and Chemistry on Langmuir's theory of the atom, and another between the Sections of Economics, Education, and