

# WEST KENT SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

## A CENTENARY RETROSPECT

1857 - 1957

By DAVID LEGGATT

It is difficult to fix the source of a river which is formed by the confluence of three tributaries. It is equally difficult to date the foundation of a Society formed by the amalgamation of three earlier societies<sup>1</sup>.

In celebrating its centenary in 1957 the West Kent Scientific Society is accepting the second of three possible birthdays. The Greenwich Natural History Society, later known as the Greenwich Natural History Club was founded in 1852. The Blackheath Photographic Society was founded in 1857, and the West Kent Microscopical Society in 1859. The Greenwich Natural History Club and the West Kent Microscopical Society amalgamated in 1861 as the West Kent Natural History and Microscopical Society. A further amalgamation in 1863 brought in the Blackheath Photographic Society, and the Society took on the name of the West Kent Natural History, Microscopical and Photographic Society. In 1915 the name West Kent Scientific Society was adopted<sup>2</sup>.

Whichever year is taken for the foundation of the Society, it is clear that the "West Kent" dates from the decade 1851-1860. It was a decade full of interest to scientists. It opened with the Great Exhibition; it saw the Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny. Minutes of an early meeting attribute the small attendance to the presence of many members at the Royal Review of the Fleet before it sailed against the Russians. Bessemer patented his steel process. Nearer home cholera epidemics swept London, and on the other side of the river, at Millwall, the Great Eastern was launched. At Morden Wharf in Greenwich the first Atlantic cable was manufactured. Not far away, at Downe, Darwin was engaged on the studies which resulted in 1859 in the publication of his *Origin of Species*.

Science was on the move; the age of technology had arrived. It was in that climate that a number of scientifically-minded persons in the north-west corner of Kent, not yet part of London, grouped themselves into the three original societies.

Another local society, the West Kent Medico-Chirurgical Society was founded in the same decade. It avoided amalgamation with the other societies and continues its independent existence to-day.

It is natural that we should ask ourselves, in Carlyle's phrase, what manner of men they were who came together in this way.

The founder and president of the Greenwich Natural History Society was George Busk who remained president until 1858. Busk appears to have been associated with the district since 1832, when he was appointed assistant surgeon of the "Grampus" the seamen's hospital ship the moored off Greenwich. He transferred to the "Dreadnought" which replaced the "Grampus" and became a full surgeon. While serving on these ships he worked out the pathology of cholera, and made important discoveries on scurvy. He retired from the service, and from practice, at a fairly early age and devoted himself to scientific research. He was particularly interested in the microscopic investigation of the lower forms of life, and in 1856 formulated the first scientific arrangement of the Bryozoa. Towards the end of his life he devoted much time to the study of palaeontology and ethnography. Busk was honoured by many learned societies. He became President of the Royal College of Surgeons; Hunterian Professor; a Fellow, and on four occasions vice-president of the Royal Society; a Fellow and vice-president of the Linnaean Society; President of the Microscopical Society; and a Fellow of the Zoological Society. An appropriate personality to launch the West Kent Society on its wide field of interests.

Associated with Busk in the early days of the Natural History Society was Frederick Currey, FRS whose chief interest was in mycology. He became honorary secretary of the Society soon after its foundation, and succeeded Busk as president in 1858. He graduated to the secretaryship of the Linnaean Society. Currey remained an active member of the West Kent Society until his death in 1881 at his home, 2 Vanbrugh Park.

The names of both Busk and Currey are perpetuated in the nomenclature of their subjects; the name "Buskia" was given to a genus of Bryozoa [moss]; the name "Curreya" was given to a genus of fungi. Busk's collection of Bryozoa enriched the Natural History Museum, South Kensington; Currey's collection of fungi is in the Kew Herbarium.

The Meeting of the Society on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1854 must have been unique. Papers were given by three members, all of whom were Fellows of the Royal Society – Busk, Currey and Glaisher.

James Glaisher served at the Cambridge University Observatory under Professor (later Sir George) Airy, and moved to Greenwich<sup>3</sup> when Airy became Astronomer Royal in 1835. Glaisher was a pioneer in the study of meteorology; by organising a voluntary service of sixty men (mostly doctors and clergymen) in different parts of the country to take precise observations on standardised instruments he can claim to have established meteorology as a science. Glaisher was Secretary of the British (subsequently the Royal) Meteorological Society from its foundation in 1850 until 1872, broken only by a term as President (1867-8). He was also President of the Royal Microscopical Society (1865-6) and of the Royal Photographic Society (1869-92).

Glaisher's activities in aeronautics brought him much prominence. With Henry Coxwell he made a number of balloon ascents from the Crystal Palace, followed in 1862 by a series of remarkable ascents from Wolverhampton. On the third of these Glaisher became unconscious at an altitude of 29,000 feet<sup>4</sup>. Coxwell temporarily lost the use of his limbs, but seized with his teeth the cord which opened the valve, and by this means brought the balloon down from 37,000 feet. Glaisher contributed regular reports on local meteorological conditions to the society, and several appear *in extenso* in the Society's records.

Other prominent members of the Natural History Society were: Henry Stainton, FRS President of the Entomological Society (1881-2) and secretary of the Ray Society, whose home at Mountsfield, Lewisham, with his library and collections of lepidoptera, was open each Wednesday evening to members; John Edward Grey, FRS Keeper of the Zoological department of the British Museum; Thomas Bell, FRS, President of the Linnaean Society and of the Ray Society; Dr Spurrell, father of Flaxman Spurrell who later on was himself a member.

The Society tried to secure accommodation for its indoor meetings at the West Kent Dispensary, but as use of those premises would have involved the liability for rates the Dispensary's governing body was unable to give the facilities required. Meetings of the Society were usually held at the Lecture Hall, Royal Hill, on the site now occupied by Greenwich Town Hall.

As was to be expected however with a group of enthusiastic naturalists, much of the Society's activity was out-of-doors. Field days were arranged regularly in the spring, summer and autumn, and the Society undertook systematic natural history "inquiries" in its own district, which was bordered by the Thames, the Darent, the Cray, Keston Common and the Ravensbourne<sup>5</sup>.

Walks in Greenwich Park, Charlton, Woolwich Common, Bostall Woods, Abbey Wood, Lesnes, Lee, Eltham and Chislehurst yielded abundant rewards for the collector. In 1856 the notice convening a Field Day directed members to Erith, and then "to proceed along the road towards Bexley to a small wood on the right through which to proceed to Lessness Heath to the Rendezvous, Mr Bull's "The Leather Bottle" near Chalk Stile Farm, from half past twelve o'clock to two o'clock; afterwards ramble through Abbey Wood to a locality on Bostal heath for Desmidiaceae; from thence proceed through Old Park Wood on Plumstead Common, to the second Rendezvous, Mr Amon's "The Woodman" from half past four to five pm and return by the agglomerated pebble beds to Woolwich..." In 1859 Frederick Currey led a Field Day, the principal object of which was the Cryptogamic Botany of the neighbourhood. The route was from Southborough Road Station to Chislehurst, St Paul's Cray Common, Petts Wood and back to Chislehurst. The minutes list nearly forty species of fungi noted in Petts Wood on that occasion.

Especially interesting are the two reports published in 1859. "The Fauna of Blackheath and its vicinity, Part 1 – Vertebrate Animals" by Dr Cuthbert Collingwood, embodying the work of the Zoological Committee of the Club, catalogues 39 mammals, 156 birds, 10 reptiles and 31 fishes, with notes on their frequency of appearance. The changes which the century has brought to the district are illustrated by the record of a fox in Peckham. The porpoise is described as "by far the commonest Cetacean we can include. A season seldom passes without their appearance at Greenwich and Deptford". There is an account of the killing of a 14½ foot Rorqual opposite Deptford Creek in 1842; squirrels occur in Greenwich Park, moles are abundant, hedgehogs common. Sparrow hawks are "not uncommon", a golden Oriole was shot at Eltham in 1853, sedge warblers were noted "in a lane between Charlton and the river", and sand martins were generally to be seen on Blackheath. Quails occurred between Morden College and Eltham and were observed in the open square of Greenwich Hospital.

The second report, "On the Botany of the district lying between the rivers Cray, Ravensbourne and Thames", was prepared by Currey on behalf of the Club's Botanical Committee. It lists 364 genera and 810 species. Unfortunately it gives no localities; these appear to have been noted on a map which has disappeared. The report itself is, in fact, rare.

Whatever changes are illustrated in these reports, one circumstance strikes a modern and familiar note. Their publication was delayed for over a year on account of financial difficulties, and it may well have been financial considerations which induced the Club to amalgamate with the newly-formed West Kent Microscopical Society in 1861.

The Blackheath Photographic Society had in its original list of members three names already prominent in the story of the Natural History Society – Busk, Glaisher and Flaxman Spurrell.

The Photographic Society met at the Blackheath Golf Club House; the presentation of a medal to the Golf Club in 1860 was probably an expression of gratitude. The minutes of the Society constitute an important record of the development of the art and science of photography in its young days.

Travers B Wire was also a founder member. His father became Lord Mayor of London in 1859, and in that year the Society was able to hold its annual soirée at the Mansion House. The Lord Mayor was subsequently elected an honorary member. Wire was afterwards Treasurer of the West Kent for many years, and on the occasion of the annual audit of the accounts, was in the habit of entertaining the Society's officers at his home on Croom's Hill "with aldermanic splendour". Another active member was Stuart Knill, who became Lord Mayor in 1893.

The first president of the West Kent Microscopical Society was John Penn, FRS of the Cedars, Belmont Hill. He was the proprietor of the engineering firm of John Penn and Sons, of Greenwich, which had been founded by his father. Penn and his firm took a leading part in the development of the screw propeller<sup>6</sup>. Penn served on the Council of the Institution of Civil Engineers and was twice president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (1859 and 1867).

The place of the meetings of the Microscopical Society is given sometimes as the Blackheath Institution, sometimes as the Blackheath Lecture Hall, sometimes as the "large room behind the Congregational Church, Blackheath", and there is a record of payment to the Mission School for use of a room. Interest in the Society grew rapidly. Members brought their own microscopes; sometimes there were a dozen or more, and at one soirée there were forty microscopes with exhibits.

The amalgamation with the Natural History Club in 1861 resulted in the appointment of two secretaries, one to represent each society; this custom continued at least until 1928.

About this time two more well-known figures appear in the membership lists. Rev J G Wood, of Belvedere, must have been one of the most familiar names in Victorian bookshops. In forty years, from 1853 to 1892, he wrote sixty

separate books, excluding magazine articles, new editions, and the editing, translation and annotation of other authors. Understandably enough, his books have little scientific importance, and had made no claims to be a scientist. Nevertheless he succeeded admirably in his aim of popularising the study of natural history by making it interesting and intelligible to the non-scientist. In this respect he can properly claim to have been a pioneer. He delivered a number of papers to the Society.

Sir John Lubbock, FRS, afterwards Lord Avebury, was an equally celebrated but rather less prolific author. To describe him as an author is to do less than justice to his versatility. A banker by profession, he became founder president of the Institute of Bankers from 1879 to 1883. As a Member of Parliament for London University, his unremitting advocacy was responsible for the Bank Holidays Act; for some years the first Monday in August was known as "St Lubbock's Day". His parliamentary persistence also brought in the Act for the Preservation of Ancient Monuments, and the Early Closing Act.

It is as a scientist, however, that Lubbock has his place in this narrative. At his parent's home at High Elms, Farnborough, he enjoyed the friendship and encouragement of his father's friend, Charles Darwin, who lived close by at Downe, and developed a life-long interest in the life-history of plants and animals. In spite of his range of activity, his scientific work was by no means negligible. He made valuable researches into the metamorphoses of insects, and devoted much time to the study of ants. He combined enthusiasm for research with a passionate zeal for adult education. He showed hospitality to his fellow-members of the Society by inviting them to High Elms.

The final amalgamation in 1863 inaugurated a period of great prosperity for the Society<sup>7</sup>. The annual report for 1874 records over 130 members: the resulting subscriptions enabled money to be spent freely on fees to visiting lecturers. Even printers' bills were no longer alarming, and each year from 1879 until 1910, there appeared a booklet containing a list of members, the Council's report, summaries and, in certain cases, full reports of the papers delivered to the Society.

From these booklets it is clear that the Society continued its former interest in its own locality, and the resulting papers are of considerable value in our local bibliography. Among such papers are:

"Sketch of the rivers and Denudation of West Kent"	by	F C J Spurrell (1886)
"A Flint Instrument found on Blackheath"		Herbert Jones (1887)
"The Birds of Blackheath"		Harry F Witherby (1894)
"The Fauna and Flora of Greenwich Park"		A D Webster (1900)
"The Extermination of British Plants, with special reference to Blackheath and Greenwich"		A D Webster (1902)
"Observations on the Geology of Shooters Hill"		J Louis Foucar (1904)
"On the Sections exposed by the two new Sewers: Deptford to Plumstead & Catford to Plumstead"		R H Chandler (1908)

The booklets give evidence of a happy combination of seriousness and conviviality. For many years an annual dinner was held, usually at the Old Falcon hotel, Gravesend. It was the custom to have dishes presenting some special subject which could be discussed afterwards. In 1882 the subject was "Salmon" and several members are recorded as making interesting observations upon its form, habits and culture. The following year the President introduced the theme of "Vegetarianism", and at a subsequent dinner some Presidential remarks on "The Natural History of Eels" gave rise to animated discussion. From 1903 till the First World War the dinners were held at the Café Monico, Piccadilly.

The soirées were a regular feature of the year's programme. They were generally held in the Blackheath Congregational Church Hall. These soirées included a reception and a concert of a conventional type. The lecture hall was set apart for a series of four or five "lecturettes" by members, and in the larger hall members exhibited natural history specimens, curios, microscope slides and photographs.

A detailed report of one of these soirées appeared in the *Borough News* of 31<sup>st</sup> May 1907. The lecturettes on this occasion were given by A D Crommelin, FRAS, on "The Photography of the Moon"; by William Webster, who gave demonstrations of high vacua; and by J L Foucar, who dealt with liquid air and liquid iron. The exhibition was remarkable for its "livestock" section; it included an African alligator and a 7ft 6in North American python which was handled by its exhibitor and held out for visitors to touch. Other exhibits included specimens dredged from the Pacific Ocean two miles below the surface, a hand fire-pump of 1588, and part of Robert McLachlan's entomological collection.

The field days of the Natural History Club had become one excursion each summer, although the influence of Currey seems to have survived in the special cryptogamic field-meetings held each October. These cryptogamic meetings were generally in the neighbourhood of Chislehurst, and ended in a "high tea" at the Bull Inn there. Approved specimens of fungi which had been collected earlier in the day were sent to the hotel in advance to be cooked and served as part of the meal.

Ladies appear to have taken part in the field days, and some special "Ladies Cryptogamic Field Days" were held. It was not until 1906, however, that the first ladies joined the Society. These pioneers deserve mention by name in these pages. They were Mrs F Wright, Miss Lindley, and Mrs Kidd, wife of Dr Walter Kidd.

Dr Kidd was a general practitioner in Blackheath, and a member of a family with a remarkable record of medical service. His father, who practised in Hyde Vale and subsequently in Montpelier Row, expressed the hope that all his sons would turn to medicine. Four in fact did so. Another did not complete his medical training, but went to South Africa as a missionary; his books on the Kafirs show his scientific interests. At one time, the editor of *The Lancet*

proposed an article on "The Kidd Dynasty in Medicine" but the project was abandoned owing to the difficulty of tracing the younger generation. A pleasant account of the family in Blackheath is contained in a book of reminiscences, *When that I was*, by Walter Kidd's sister, Mrs Dorothy McCall, published in 1952.

The Society's ordinary meetings were held in the School for the Sons of Missionaries, adjoining Blackheath Station until 1911; thereafter in succession at Blackheath Chambers, the Wesleyan Hall and All Saints' Parish Hall. Indoor meetings continued throughout the 1914-1918 war, and were well-maintained until the outbreak of hostilities in 1939, when the Society's activities were suspended.

The Second World War scattered members far and wide. Early in 1947, however the pre-war Secretary (C A Newell), two other members (A W Humphries) and Engineer Rear-Admiral Williamson) and the writer of these pages, met at Kidbrooke House<sup>8</sup> to consider the revival of the Society. Pessimism at the knowledge that few pre-war members could be traced was balanced by the thought that the Honorary Treasurer had at his disposal a comfortable pre-war balance, and that free use of the Greenwich Borough Council's Community Centre at Kidbrooke was available for the Society's meetings. The Society was reformed, and the first post-war meeting was held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1947. Since then monthly meetings have been held regularly from October to May.

Some members may regret the passing of some of the Society's former practices; if they are reminded that a Scientific Society need not confine its activities to listening to lectures, this retrospect will have served a second purpose. But the writer of a retrospect must resist the temptation to look at the changing scene ahead.

The Society's records are an illuminating commentary on the scientific interests during the period which they cover. They are also a memorial to those, eminent and humble, whose willingness to share their knowledge and whose enthusiasm for science has sustained the Society throughout its existence.

Some have already been mentioned; others are listed in the roll of Presidents; but the majority must be unnamed. No account of the Society would be complete without recording two names: W G Dawson, an ardent entomologist was a member for over 60 years; Stanley Edwards was, with one short break, Secretary for 48 years.

COLLECTED RECORDS

The following records of the Society have been deposited in the Greenwich Public Libraries, and are housed in the Local History Room<sup>9</sup> at Blackheath Library:

GREENWICH NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY (later GREENWICH NATURAL HISTORY CLUB):

- Minute Book, 1852-1857
- Minute Book, 1858-1861
- The Fauna of Blackheath and its vicinity, Part 1: Vertebrate Animals, 1859  
Being the first report of the Zoological Committee of the Greenwich Natural History Club.
- On the Botany of the district lying between the rivers Cray, Ravensbourne and Thames, 1858  
Being the first report of the Botanical Committee of the Greenwich Natural History Club.

BLACKHEATH PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY:

- Minute Book, 1857-1861
- Minute Book of Council, 1857-1861

WEST KENT MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY:

- Minute Book of Council, 1859-1878 (containing Minutes of the Council of the West Kent Natural History, Microscopical and Photographic Society from the time of the amalgamation until 1878).

WEST KENT NATURAL HISTORY, MICROSCOPICAL AND PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY  
(afterwards WEST KENT SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY):

- A scrap-book containing notices of meetings, menus, and items of stationery, 1888-1889
- Minute Book, 1871-1891
- Minute Book, 1891-1913
- Minute Book, 1913-1952
- Minute Book of Council, 1878-1892
- Minute Book of Council, 1911-1826
- Printed transactions, including accounts, reports of Council, lists of members, and details of papers read, for the years 1874, and 1879-1910 (except 1895-1897).
- Album containing photographs of members, c 1861.
- History of the West Kent Scientific Society (1852-1921), revised to 1928, by John M Stone, 1929.

PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY

1858	G Busk, FRS	1900-1901	H F Billingham
1859	James Glaisher, FRS	1901-1903	G Draper
1860	Chas Heisch	1904-1908	Walter Kidd, MD
1860-1861	James Glaisher, FRS	1909-1910	J F Green
1861	J F South	1910-1911	Stanley Edwards
1861	John Penn, FRS	1912-1913	C E S Phillips
1862-1864	F Currey, FRS	1914-1915	Gavin J Burns
1864-1865	Flaxman Spurrell	1916-1917	Prof H T Davidge
1866-1867	H T Stainton, FRS	1918-1919	Harold Moore
1868-1869	James Glaisher, FRS	1920-1921	Sir R Robertson, KBE, FRS
1870-1871	F Currey, FRS	1922-1923	Sir P Bassett-Smith, KCB, RN
1872-1873	J J Wier, FLS	1924-1925	H S Saunders
1874-1875	Charles Heisch	1925-1926	E Ofenheim
1876-1877	J J Wier	1927-1929	Prof J S S Brame
1878-1879	R McLachlan, FRS	1929-1931	H W Ord
1880-1882	W G Lemon	1931-1933	Sir James Henderson
1882-1884	F T Taylor	1933-1936	Sir Frank Dyson, FRS <sup>10</sup>
1884-1886	Rev A Johnson	1936-1938	Prof G B Bryan
1886-1888	T O Donaldson	1938 - 1947	Prof J Stead
1888-1890	Herbert Jones	1947-1949	A W Humphreys
1890-1891	Thomas Moore	1949-1951	Instr. Rear-Admiral Sir Arthur Hall, KBE, CB
1892-1894	R McLachlan, FRS	1952-1953	R A Phillips
1894-1896	H J Adams	1956	A V Parlby, OBE
1896-1898	S Smith Harvey	1957	Instr. Rear-Admiral Sir Arthur Hall, KBE, CB
1898-1900	J M Stone		

WEST KENT SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY  
1957

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NOTES BY R J BUCHANAN

David Leggatt's *Retrospect* has twelve pages, nine of text and three for appendices. It does not claim to cover more than the most significant aspects of the history of the West Kent Scientific Society. The following notes fill in one or two details of interest to me, and add a few words of explanation.

#### <sup>1</sup> AMALGAMATION OF THE THREE SOCIETIES

This was aided by the substantial common membership between them – Natural History was *the* science of the day, when flora and fauna were first being recorded scientifically by the Linnaean system - and natural historians were early users of both microscopes and cameras.

#### <sup>2</sup> NAME CHANGE TO BLACKHEATH SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

In 1967 the Society adopted 'Blackheath' in the title as more suited to the area served.

#### <sup>3</sup> GLAISHER AT THE GREENWICH MAGNETIC OBSERVATORY

In 1838 he set up and was superintendent, until his retirement in 1874, of the Magnetic Observatory, at a building on the next bluff to the east in Greenwich Park overlooking the Thames. Later on the Magnetic Observatory was an objector to electric trains on the surface in Greenwich.

He was also a founder member of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

Later in his *Retrospect* Leggatt extols the extent of Rev J G Wood's writing. Though seldom published for the public to read, Glaisher also wrote voluminously on his scientific work, and for the Societies in which he was a member particularly where he was secretary – his output was virtually all printed. No doubt other prominent members of the Society wrote voluminously.

#### <sup>4</sup> GLAISHER'S BALLOON FLIGHT AT WOLVERHAMPTON

He and Coxwell (one of the foremost balloonists of the time) had taken up temperature and pressure measuring instruments into a thunderstorm as the first such scientific experiment. It is known that Glaisher passed out at 29,000 feet because that is where his log stopped. The maximum altitude was shown by a minimum pressure recorder. He resumed his log on the descent when he came to at 16,000 ft. No one knows how accurate his measurements were, what with the effects of high winds and variable pressures that are now known to occur in thunderstorms, but they are credible.

#### <sup>5</sup> FIELD DAYS AND THE RAILWAY

The recently built railway system made getting to and from the locations of Field Days practicable.

#### <sup>6</sup> JOHN PENN

<sup>7</sup>John Penn and Sons were located just beyond the bottom of Blackheath Hill between Blackheath Road and John Penn Street, where Wickes et al are now. Their major business was the design and manufacture of steam engines for marine propulsion. Penn himself installed an early telegraph between his house (the Cedars on Belmont Hill) and the Works.

#### PROSPERITY OF THE COMBINED SOCIETIES

The annual subscription was half a guinea (52.5p in modern money, but worth as many pounds). One of the original Societies had set a quarter guinea subscription, but this was inadequate. Notices were then either written individually to members by hand, or printed – at a large cost, usually the major secretarial expense.

#### <sup>8</sup> KIDBROOKE HOUSE

This was on the Shooters Hill Road, diagonally opposite the "Sun in the Sands" pub, where the slip road from the motorway towards the Blackwall Tunnel now comes up to take A2 traffic towards Blackheath. When the motorway was built the Community Centre moved to what is now called Mycenae House, though for many years it continued to use the Kidbrooke House name.

#### <sup>9</sup> LOCAL HISTORY ROOM AT BLACKHEATH LIBRARY

This was run by Mr Leggatt. When the Community Centre moved to Mycenae Road the Local History Archive came too in 1970, to the upper floors of the other building on the site, "Woodlands". This was originally built in 1774 for John Julius Angerstein (famous for the early organisation of Lloyds of London, and for his picture collection which formed the nucleus of the National Gallery). Later Mr Julian Watson ran the Archive at Woodlands for many years, retiring in 2003, just before its move to the Greenwich Heritage Centre at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. The Archives are now held in an air-conditioned Store and can be viewed in the Search Room.

#### <sup>10</sup> SIR FRANK DYSON, FRS

Astronomer Royal, 1910-1933.