

the use of the capital letter in calling him Master, and his forty-five lines in *Who's Who*.

Just after the end of the last war we began a regular, intimate, and eventually, I am proud to say, affectionate correspondence, the last document of which was written by him three weeks before his death. I believe I have most of his letters. They reveal a continued widening of interests and a kindly altruism. They discuss books and plays, hock and burgundy, the possibility of his writing on the "NU SPELIN", and the teaching of astronomy. They show his enthusiasm in my amateur archaeology and my poor efforts at poetry. On his knighthood his acknowledgment of congratulations was a printed slip, with a statement in the text that he had personally both set it up and struck it off on his own printing press.

For the last ten years he suffered increasingly with failing sight and a regularly recurring bronchitis, and this necessitated prolonged absences in Madeira, where his life was serene, though for a long time only one of his lungs was functioning.

He was happy in the arrangements for the second edition of his *Education, its Data and First Principles*, but his heart was rapidly failing him, and in November a bad turn was followed by prolonged weakness. The proofs of his book arrived shortly before he died, perhaps two hours. He was very pleased and just glanced at them, but was too weak to do more. The end was sweet and peaceful, without any suffering. H. A. T.

SIR ARTHUR EDDINGTON, O.M., F.R.S., 1882–1944.

PRESIDENT OF THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION, 1930–1932.

By the death of Sir Arthur Eddington, the world has lost one of its greatest scientists.

Eddington went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, from Owens College, Manchester; he was Senior Wrangler in 1904, Smith's Prizeman and Fellow of Trinity in 1907. After a short period as chief assistant at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, he returned to Cambridge in 1913 as Plumian Professor of Astronomy. Among the many honours he received were the Royal Medal of the Royal Society in 1928, a knighthood in 1930, and the Order of Merit in 1938.

This Association will not easily forget that Eddington was its President for the period 1930–1932, and his two Presidential addresses, "The End of the World" and "The Decline of Determinism", lucid, stimulating, provocative and full of that pawky humour of which Eddington was a master, made a deep impression on the minds of those who listened to him. On less formal occasions, the humour and lucidity were always evident in his conversation, but here the impression was not so much that of a brilliant scientist, but of a man of courtesy and charm both simple and sincere.

This brief note is simply to record the death of a great man, of whose connection with our Association we are very proud. A full account of Eddington's outstanding contributions to cosmology and ultimate physics is being written for the *Gazette* by Professor Sir Edmund Whittaker, and will appear in a future issue.