It is found that the assumption of a constant rate of rise is usually sufficiently accurate. If greater accuracy is desired, simultaneous observation from two theodolites are taken, and the reduction of the observations is then considerably more complicated. A middle course is to suspend a piece of silver paper from the balloon, and to obtain the difference between the elevation of this and of the balloon by means of a graticule incorporated in the telescope.

(Sent by G. A. Bull, Meteorological Office, R.A.F., Felixstowe. Further details in a pamphlet with the above title obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office.)

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It is hoped to publish further replies in due course. Additional contributions should be sent to A. Buxton, 37 Heddon, Whitchurch, Cardiff.

JOHN JAMES MILNE

THE Reverend J. J. Milne was elected a member of the Association on January 22nd, 1884 ; by his death this year we have lost one of our oldest members. He served the Association as Honorary Treasurer from 1897 to 1899, and was one of the Honorary Secretaries in 1896.

Milne's *Weekly Problem Papers, Companion* and *Solutions*, were well known to coaches ; with R. F. Davis, he produced a *Geometrical Conics*. His most important book was doubtless the *Elementary treatise on cross-ratio geometry*, notable for its concise power and elegance, and for its historical notes, many of them intended to show how the roots of cross-ratio geometry are to be found in the Greek geometry. Milne's love of Greek geometry led him to a discovery which gave him keen pleasure : Apollonius had stated that the third book of his *Conics* contained a complete solution of the famous problem of the *locus ad tres et quatuor lineas*, but it was taken for granted that this solution had been lost until Milne showed that it was given in a somewhat disguised form in Book III, Prop. 54.

Many of Milne's gifts to the Library of the Association are recorded in past *Gazettes*. He took great interest in the growth of the Library, and that it possesses a remarkable collection of books on geometrical conics, ranging from the sixteenth century to the present day, is in no small part due to a generosity which was one aspect of Milne's devotion to his chosen subject.