

OBITUARY.

---

Sir GEORGE GABRIEL STOKES, Bart., D.C.L. (*Oxon.*), LL.D., D.Sc. (*Cantab.*), died at his residence, Lensfield Cottage, Cambridge, on the 1st February, 1903. He was born on the 13th August, 1819, at Skreen, in the county of Sligo, of which parish his father was Rector. At the age of 13 he was sent to Dublin, where he was educated at the school of the Rev. R. H. Wehl, D.D. In 1835 he was removed to Bristol College, of which Dr. Jerrard was principal. In 1837 he entered Pembroke College, Cambridge, of which he was the Master when he died; graduated in 1841 (a year before Cayley) as Senior Wrangler and First Smith's Prizeman; became a Fellow of his College in the same year; and in 1849 was elected Lucasian Professor of Mathematics in succession to Joshua King, Babbage, and Airy; and to Newton also in the same chair.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1851, and in the following year was awarded the Rumford medal in recognition of investigations on the refrangibility of light, published in the Philosophical Transactions for 1852. He was appointed one of the Secretaries of the Royal Society in 1854, and after numerous contributions to the Transactions of that and other learned societies, he became President of the Royal Society in 1885, a post which he held until 1890.

In 1889 he was created a baronet in recognition of his service to science, which was fully appreciated abroad as well as at home, and among numerous other distinctions he received the Prussian order *Pour le Mérite*.

He received honorary degrees from Cambridge, as well as from Oxford, Edinburgh, Dublin, Glasgow and Aberdeen. Sir George Stokes was President of the British Association at the Exeter meeting in 1869, and in the following year he was appointed to serve on the Cambridge University Commission; and later, he, like Newton, was a representative of the University in Parliament.

The celebration of the Jubilee of Professor Stokes was carried out at Cambridge in 1899 with great success, and representative men of science from all parts of the world were present in his honour. In responding to his health, Stokes apologised humorously for the small amount of work he had accomplished in a long lifetime; but then he added, if he had worked harder