concluded that cyclones were fewest and least severe at a Sun-spot minimum and the converse at a maximum. He also tabulated the rainfall in different years at a large number of stations distributed over the Earth, and concluded that the total amount of rain which fell on the Earth was above the average at times of sun-spot maxima and below at minima. Neither of these conclusions has as yet been sufficiently confirmed to be beyond doubt.

Dr. Meldrum was elected a Fellow of the Society on the 11th of March 1870. He communicated to the Society in 1873 a paper on “Star Showers seen at Mauritius.”

The degree of LL.D. was conferred on him by the University of Aberdeen in 1876, and in the same year he became a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was made C.M.G. in 1886, and served as a member of the Council of Government of Mauritius from 1886 to 1896. After his retirement in 1896 he lived in Edinburgh, where he died on the 28th of August 1901.

Sir Cuthbert Peek, the only child of Sir William Henry Peek, the first Baronet, was born on the 30th of January 1855, and succeeded to the baronetcy on the death of his father in 1868. He was educated at Eton and Pembroke College, Cambridge. After leaving Cambridge he went through a course of instruction in astronomy and surveying, and put his knowledge into practice in two journeys across the unbroken parts of Iceland, taking regular observations of the latitude, longitude, and dip of the needle. On his return to England he established a small observatory with a 3-inch equatorial in his father’s grounds. In 1882 he accompanied the British expedition to Australia to observe the transit of Venus, the party consisting of Captain Morris, R.E. (in charge of the expedition), Lieut. Darwin, R.E., and an assistant. Mr. Peek took with him a 6·4-inch equatorial and a portable observing hut. The expedition arrived at Brisbane on the 27th of October, and a few days later left for Jimbour, a well-chosen station, with an uninterrupted view of the horizon in all directions. The six weeks preceding the transit of Venus were occupied with observations of double stars, nebula, and clusters, and especially of the nebula surrounding η Argus, on which Mr. Peek published an interesting memoir after his return to England in August 1883. On the 7th of December, the morning of the transit of Venus, the sky was completely overcast, although there had been only two cloudy nights in the previous six weeks. In 1884 Mr. Peek built the Rousdon Observatory and furnished it with a 6·4-inch Merz refractor equatorially mounted, a small transit instrument, and a sidereal clock. From this date he carried on a continuous series of observations of variable stars of long period, and reports of his observations will be found each year since 1887 in the February number of the Monthly Notices. When Mr. Peek’s observations began the difficulties of
observing long-period variables were considerable, as the observers had to determine the magnitudes of the comparison stars. These difficulties were removed in 1890 by the publication of charts and catalogues of comparison stars for variables by the Harvard College Observatory. Observations made before the 31st of December 1890 were corrected to the Harvard data, and since then the Harvard photometric magnitudes of the comparison stars have been used. Argelander's method of observing was adopted, and each observation of a variable was made by comparison with five stars of known magnitude in the same field. To the end of 1900 6,809 observations had been made and 267 maxima and 227 minima had been determined. Papers showing the light changes of ten variables have been published, and the whole of the observations made at the Rousdon Observatory, which are of great value, will appear in a volume of the Memoirs of the Society. Meteorological observations were also carried on, and weekly and monthly weather reports were issued from the Rousdon Observatory.

Sir Cuthbert Peek was elected a Fellow of the Society on the 11th of January 1884.

In 1884 he married the Hon. Augusta Louisa Broderick, eldest daughter of Viscount Middleton, and he leaves two sons and four daughters. He died on the 8th of July 1901.

Basil Woodd Smith was born in London on the 9th of March 1831. He was intended by his father for the Stock Exchange, but finding the work entirely uncongenial he soon abandoned it. Placed in circumstances which permitted him to give his time and counsel where they were needed, he was able to assist a number of good causes. He lived at Hampstead, and was chairman of the bench of magistrates. He assisted the local philanthropic institutions, and was for many years chairman of the Orphan Working Schools. He was a man of strong religious views, and was largely occupied in the work of the Bible Society, attending the committee meetings with great regularity for a long period. He also took great interest in Palestine exploration, and generally in all questions of Biblical archæology.

Although a good classical scholar, his interests were scientific rather than literary. He was for many years on the board of managers of the Royal Institution, and attended the lectures with great regularity. He frequently observed with a telescope he had erected on the roof of his house, and was always ready to show it to visitors and answer the questions they put to him. He was elected a Fellow of the Society on the 10th May 1861, and till recently was a regular attendant at the meetings.

Mr. Woodd Smith was twice married, and leaves eight children.

Henry Augustus Rowland, the son of the Rev. H. A. Rowland, D.D., was born at Honesdale, Pennsylvania, on the