

Dr. John Russell Hind, F. R. S.

We regret very deeply to have to announce the death of Dr. *J. R. Hind*, F. R. S., late superintendent of the Nautical Almanac. Dr. *Hind* was in his seventy third year and died at his residence at Twickenham, on Monday, 1895 Dec. 23. Those who are acquainted with the pages of this Journal fifty years since, need not to be reminded that there was then no more diligent contributor, or one whose contributions covered a wider range of astronomical enquiry. To more modern readers he will be best known as the superintendent of the Nautical Almanac, with which work he was connected some forty years and the regularity with which it appeared and the character for accuracy which it maintained are in no small measure due to the care he bestowed upon its production.

Dr. *Hind*'s astronomical career began at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, in the Magnetical and Meteorological Department, under Sir George Airy, by whom he was selected to take part in the determination of the longitude of Valentia, under the immediate superintendence of the Rev. R. Sheepshanks. Before this work was completed (1844) by the slow method of transmission of chronometers, he was appointed Director of the private Observatory of George Bishop Esq. in Regents Park, in succession to the Rev. W. R. Dawes, already famous for the care he bestowed on the measurement of double stars. Mr. *Hind* did not pursue the same line of enquiry, but began immediately to form a series of ecliptical charts of stars down to the eleventh magnitude, originally undertaken with the view of discovering the object that disturbed the motion of Uranus. He did not find Neptune, but discovered in rapid succession several of the minor planets, at that time considered only second in interest and importance. Some comets as well as variable stars are also connected with his name, and while indefatigable as an observer, he continued his calculations on planetary and cometary orbits with great assiduity. Not content with computing the orbit of every comet that was discovered, he also sought improved elements for many old comets, that had been imperfectly observed or reduced, and in many instances corrected or improved the catalogues of cometary orbits. In this connection may be mentioned his successful effort to trace back in history the various appearances of Halley's comet from the time of the Christian era, but his work on enquiries of this kind is too large for more than the barest reference.

In 1853, Dr. *Hind* undertook the charge of the Nautical Almanac, and if from that date he published less, he was scarcely less busily engaged. The issue of the ecliptic charts; work on ancient eclipses; the direction of Mr. Bishop's Observatory kept him closely occupied till the death of Mr. George Bishop, and the subsequent removal of the Observatory to Twickenham, when his career as an active practical astronomer virtually ceased, though he still maintained a connection with that Observatory till given up and removed to Italy.

Dr. *Hind* received the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society, on whose Council for many years he filled the Office of Foreign Secretary, and subsequently that of President; the medal of the Royal Society and some others founded as awards for the encouragement of astronomical discoveries. He was elected corresponding member of the French Institute and of several learned foreign societies. He has enjoyed a deservedly high reputation for much useful, if not brilliant, work, loyally undertaken and accurately performed; he was perhaps fortunate in pursuing, early in life, processes which brought an immediate return and great accession of credit, but not, it will generally be admitted, incommensurate with his zeal and industry.

William E. Plummer.

Entdeckung von vier neuen Planeten 1896 CH bis CL.

Deux planètes Charlois 7 Janvier. Observations 8 Janvier :

No.	t. m. Nice	AR. app.	DP. app.	Mouv. diurne	Gr.	
1896 CH	8 ^h 15 ^m 5	106° 14' 39"	65° 5' 44"	—15' —4'	12 ^m 5	
CJ	9 15.8	110 13 35	67 38 22	—13 —5	13.5	<i>Perrotin.</i>

Zwei Planeten Wolf 7 Januar 12^h M. Z. Heidelberg :

Nr.	AR.	PD.	tägl. Bew.	Gr.	
1896 CK	104° 14'	67° 58'	—12' —3'	11 ^m	
CL	104 4	67 24	—12 —4	12	<i>Berberich.</i>

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