

the spirit of youth, the freshness of enjoyment into riper years, and even into old age."

He was elected a Fellow of this Society on 1st February 1847, and was also a member of the Geological and Antiquarian Societies. He received the degree of LL.D. from the University of Aberdeen. He was also a D.C.L. of Oxford. He died on 10th August 1881, at Morton House, near Edinburgh.

REV. JOHN CUMMING, D.D. By the Rev. Professor Flint.

THE REV. DR. JOHN CUMMING, who died at Chiswick on the 4th of last July, was elected a Fellow of this Society on 21st February 1853. The deceased was born in Aberdeen on 10th November 1810. He was educated in the Grammar School of his native city, and afterwards in King's College, of which he became a graduate.

At the early age of twenty-three he was called to the pastorate of the Scottish Church, Crown Court, Covent Garden, London, and the duties of this office he discharged for almost fifty years. The attractiveness of his preaching, his zealous opposition to Roman Catholicism, High Churchism, and Rationalism, and the popularity of the religious writings which flowed in rapid succession from his pen, not only gathered round him a large and influential congregation, but gained him a multitude of admirers in all parts of the kingdom; while, at a somewhat later period, the definiteness and singularity of the conclusions to which he was led by his study of prophecy made him, perhaps, more talked about than any other man in the clerical world.

The Hammersmith discussion of 1839 showed his readiness and skill in public debate. As early as 1840, in the preface to his edition of John Knox's Book of Common Order, he advocated nearly the same changes in the public worship of the Church of Scotland for which Dr. Robert Lee contended in Presbytery and Assembly about twenty years later. It was about 1846 that he began to attempt to unfold the course of unfulfilled prophecy, and from about 1860 that his interpretations became startlingly definite and particular. The year 1868 was fixed on as that in which very marvellous events were to occur. It was not an uneventful year, yet when Dr. Cumming sought to show in 1870 that every incident

foretold as then to happen had actually taken place, the task was generally recognised to be one of hopeless difficulty. Even should it be thought, however, that he was not very successful in his apocalyptic researches, the members of the Royal Society cannot need to be reminded that in the same department of investigation Sir Isaac Newton himself somewhat signally failed.

Dr. Cumming's publications were very numerous, and several of them passed through many editions and were very widely read. They may be distributed into three classes:—(1) Works of practical religious edification—such as those entitled *Daily Life*, *Voices of the Night*, *Sabbath Morning Readings*, &c. ; (2) Controversial Works—of which the *Hammersmith Discussion* and the *Popular Lectures on Essays and Reviews* may be mentioned as examples ; and (3) Works on Prophecy—such as the *Apocalyptic Sketches* of 1847, 48, and 49, and *The Great Tribulation, Redemption draweth Nigh*, and *Seventh Vial*, of a later period.

Dr. Cumming found relaxation and pleasure in tending bees, and was the author of the letters on apiculture, signed “Bee-master,” which appeared in the *Times*.

Upwards of two years before his death, his powers of mind and body began perceptibly to fail, and even before there were any signs of waning vigour, fashion and popularity had gone to flatter others ; but the announcement of his decease must have carried sadness to many, as they remembered the conspicuousness of the position which he had long held, the abundance of his labours and the multitude of his works, the charm of his speech and the popularity of his writings, his bold and tenacious advocacy of his convictions, and his amiable and estimable personal qualities.

DR. P. D. HANDYSIDE. By Dr. J. H. Balfour, F.R.S.

PETER DAVID HANDYSIDE was born on 26th October 1808. He was the son of William Handyside, Writer to the Signet in Edinburgh. He died on 21st February 1881, at 16 Lansdowne Crescent, Edinburgh, after a lengthened illness.

He was educated in Edinburgh, and took his degree in medicine in the University of Edinburgh in 1831. He was a distinguished student, as is evinced by the fact that he was elected Senior Presi-