In this work he struck new ground by referring the stars to their galactic latitude and longitude This far reaching research was done by him single handed ' It was his eye that measured the lines and his was the pen, that worked out the calculations "

His Benefactions

McClean generously employed his fortune in the advancement of astronomy At a cost of £12,500 he founded the Isaac Newton Scholarships in the University of Cambridge for the encouragement of research in astronomy and spectroscopy In 1894 he presented the Cape of Good Hope Observatory with the large Victoria telescope, fittings and dome, with all the latest improvements He later gave the same Observatory a prismatic camera He made a large collection of illuminated manuscripts, early printed books and several other art treasures, all of which he bequethed to the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge He also made large money bequests to that University, to the University of Birmingham and to the Royal Astronomical Society for furthering research in astronomy and physics

His Honours

McClean received the honorary LL D of Glasgow in 1894 Next year he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society In 1899 he was the recipient of the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society, the highest honour in the gift of that Society

McClean died at Brussels from pneumonia, November 8, 1904

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES

Eclipse of the Sun.— An annular eclipse of the sun will occur on December 2–3, but will be invisible in India The path of the annular eclipse lies entirely in the Pacific Ocean, commencing in the sea to the south of Japan and ending near California in the western coast of the United States of America

Planets during December 1937 —Venus continues to be a bright object visible early in the morning before sunrise It is moving eastwards and at the end of the month, will rise about three quarters of an hour before the sun On December 1, there will be a close conjunction with the moon the planet being about 2° north of the moon Mercury can be seen for the greater part of the month near the western horizon immediately after sunset

Three major planets, can be conveniently observed during the early part of the night Mars and Jupiter are situated in the western sky while Saturn will cross the meridian at about sunset The minor axis of the ring ellipse will be only 1″ 7 at the beginning of the month and is gradually increasing On December 2, Saturn will be at one of the stationary points and will attain quadrature with the sun on December 20

Comets —Encke's comet (which was detected on September 2, by Jeffers at the Lick Observatory) is approaching the earth and getting brighter, on November 6, it was of the twelfth magnitude The comet is situated in the constellation Cygnus and rapidly moving towards southwest According to Matkiewicz ephemeris (Pulkowa circular 20) the comet will be in Aquila in the early part of December and will be bright enough to be seen with a binocular It will reach maximum brightness on December 25, but owing to the proximity of the sun and the low altitude at sunset this will not be a suitable time for observing the object

The period of the comet is a little over three years It has been observed at every return since its discovery in 1819