

The late Sir Edwin Arnold.

It is with sorrow that we have to announce the death of an illustrious and esteemed member of the Council of the Aëronautical Society of Great Britain. On March 24, Sir Edwin Arnold, Author of "The Light of Asia," breathed his last.

In the many biographical sketches of the poet that have been published, and which have so ably detailed his literary work and other pursuits, it has escaped the pens of the writers that in addition to the wide range of subjects that Sir Edwin Arnold's sympathies embraced was the science of aëronautics. This fact it becomes the special duty of this journal to record. Of late years, ill-health had deprived him of the possibility of actively taking part in the deliberations of the Council of the Aëronautical Society of Great Britain, but not very long before his death, in a letter received by the Honorary Secretary of the Society, the continuance of his sympathy with the aims and objects of the Society was warmly expressed.

In the *Daily Telegraph* of March 25 there appeared an excellent and heartfelt account of the life and labours of Sir Edwin Arnold, the more heartfelt because that journal had been so intimately associated with him for over forty years, during which time he worked on its editorial staff, and those who wish to esteem aright, the genius, talent, industry, achievements, distinctions, and sterling personal qualities of our late Councillor may well peruse this summary.

Amongst the excellent traits of personal character mentioned in this eulogy is his "temper of imperturbable sweetness," noted in "his sunny optimism." These qualities made it possible for him to fight political battles with vigour, but not with rancour or unfriendliness of speech, so that the words of his pen seemed an expression of his own translation of the Buddhistic rule.

"govern the lips as they were palace doors, the King within; tranquil and fair and courteous be all words which from that presence win."

General Meeting.

The second meeting of the Thirty-ninth Session of the Aeronautical Society of Great Britain was held at the Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, on Thursday, March 17, 1904, the President, Major B. Baden-Powell, in the chair.

The President: Ladies and Gentlemen, I will ask the Honorary Secretary to read the minutes of the Society.

The Honorary Secretary read the minutes.

Experiments with Aerial Screw Propellers.

By MAJOR B. BADEN-POWELL.

These experiments, though they have continued over a considerable period of time, are, unfortunately, by no means conclusive in results. I may as well explain how and why I conducted them. Actual trials of aerial propellers have not very often been made, or perhaps I should say that the results of such trials have not often been published. This latter may be for two reasons: 1st, that inventors wish to keep the results of their investigations to themselves, which, though somewhat selfish, is but natural. 2nd. The results may be such that the experimenters do not think them worth recording. I have considered whether I should not comply with this second reason, and simply look upon the results of my work as negative and not worth recording. But on second thoughts I determined to publish some account of what I had done in the hope that it may possibly be useful, even if only in preventing others from wasting time by going over the same ground. I think, however, that some few of my deductions may even be more useful than this.

For aerial work it is possible that screws may be used in two ways—as propellers to drive the apparatus horizontally, and as lifters to raise it vertically.

My idea at first was to test screws as horizontal propellers, but I soon came to the conclusion that this would require a large space, whether the experiments were conducted on a whirling table, or on a travelling carriage. The lifting screws, on the other hand, to raise a weight off its support, need take up but very little room. For