W. M. COATES.

WILLIAM MONTGOMERY COATES was born at Midleton, co. Cork, on June 2nd, 1857, and, after a distinguished career at Trinity College, Dublin, entered Queens' College, Cambridge, in 1884. He became a fellow of that foundation soon after taking his degree as Third Wrangler in 1886, and was afterwards Bursar, Assistant tutor, and Mathematical Lecturer of the College.

In the mathematical world it is as a teacher that Coates will be remembered. He was one of the most successful of recent times in Cambridge. His breezy cheerful businesslike manner made his college lectures a real pleasure to listen to, whilst his patience with private pupils was astonishing; he seemed to be able to work pretty nearly all day and yet was always willing to do more. It was characteristic of him that, having some terms free after his first illness, he spent them in attending lectures with a zest that a man less than half his age might have envied. After that illness he seemed outwardly as strong and cheerful as ever, but he may not have really been so, and a second illness ended in his death, on January 16th, 1912.

Like many other Irishmen, Coates was keenly interested in geometry, and taught it in most inspiring fashion, but, although his opinion of new work was sought by his friends, he never wrote papers himself. He was always too much occupied with teaching and college business for that.

His nature was kindly and lovable. He held strong views and expressed himself vigorously, but was scrupulously fair and courteous to opponents, whose goodwill he always retained.