

## **Mr W H Dines**

Mr W H Dines, who lived at the Old Observatory, Brook Street, Benson, from 1914 until his death in 1927 was a distinguished meteorologist. Being of independent means, after taking a mathematical degree at Cambridge, he was able to devote most of his life to the pursuit of his hobby, meteorology. He became well known early in his career from his invention of the Pressure Tube Anemometer which was adopted as the standard instrument for measuring the wind in this country and was used also in many places abroad. Later he became even better known for his exploration of the upper air, first by means of instruments carried by kites and later by small balloons which reached a height of ten or twelve miles before bursting and allowing the instrument to return to earth.

He pursued this work at his home near Watlington and later during his residence at Benson. In recognition of his work he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1905, an honour much coveted by British scientists. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society and served on its council for many years, being elected President for two terms of office. His reputation was international. He was of a retiring nature and though well known in London scientific circles he did not take much part in village life or local affairs.