



SIR DAVID GILL,

K.C.B., F.R.S., D.Sc.

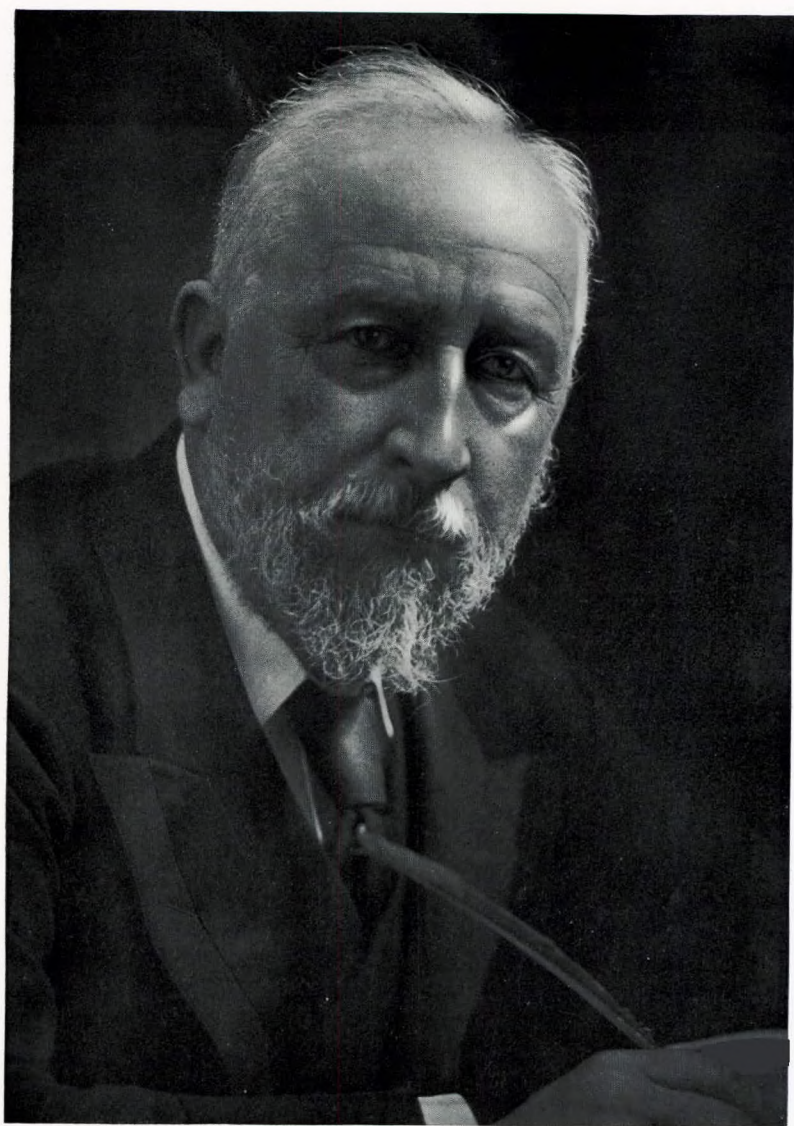
PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF
MARINE ENGINEERS.



SIR DAVID GILL, K.C.B., F.R.S., D.Sc., whose portrait we have pleasure in reproducing by courtesy of the *Dollar Magazine*, is an astronomer, highly distinguished for his attainments and researches in his special branch of science, who, in virtue of his known sympathy with things engineering and mechanical, was elected President of the Institute of Marine Engineers for the session 1910-1911. His Presidential Address, delivered on October 31st and reported in this issue, proves the wisdom of the Council of the Institute in nominating him for the position, as it will form a valuable addition to its Transactions.

He was born at Blairythan, in Aberdeenshire, in 1843, educated at Dollar Academy, Clackmannanshire, and at Marischal College in the "Granite City." Like many other distinguished Scotsmen, his success was achieved in countries far from his native land. After studying astronomy at a private observatory at Aberdeen for five years, he organized Lord Lindsay's expedition of 1873-6 to the Mauritius for the purpose of observing the transit of Venus in approximating the distance to the sun. Eight years later he again organized expeditions for this purpose in South Africa. This country was the scene of his labour for a period of twenty-nine years, from 1879 to 1907, during which time he held the position of H.M.'s Astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope. He was successful in his observations of the distances of various stars and planets, and, in addition to his astronomical work pure and simple, gained distinction in survey work necessitating some degree of civil and mechanical engineering skill. In 1877 he measured the base line for the geodetic survey of Egypt, carried out the geodetic survey of Natal and Cape Colony during the years 1885 to 1896, and in the following year organized the geodetic survey of Rhodesia. He was largely responsible for the introduction of the use of photography into astronomical science, and in 1882 photographed the great comet of that year.

His publications on subjects connected with astronomy are numerous and valuable, and the honours he has gained in various countries stamp him as one of



our most brilliant living scientists. He received from the Khedive the Third Order of the Medjidie for his work in Egypt, the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society and the Valz Prize of the Institute of France for his observations of Mars in 1882, the Gold Medal of the National Academy of Science, Washington, in 1900, the Gold Medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, and the Royal Medal of the Royal Society, London, in 1903. He is a correspondent of the Institute of France and member of the Academies of Science of Berlin, Rome, St. Petersburg, Amsterdam, Washington, New York. He was recently appointed Foreign Knight of the German Order of Merit for Science and Art and is an officer of the Legion d'Honneur; is a past President of the British Association, and is now President of the Royal Astronomical Society.

In the course of his speech at the annual dinner of the Institute the Astronomer Royal, Professor Dyson, attributed Sir David's brilliant success as an astronomer largely to his mechanical instinct and his grasp of engineering conditions.

In addition to the admiration and respect with which Sir David was regarded for his scientific attainments, he was esteemed during his long residence at the Cape of Good Hope for his geniality and social qualities, and that esteem will be shared by all who were privileged to be present on the occasion of his Presidential Address on October 31st and at the annual dinner of the Institute under his chairmanship.

INSTITUTE OF MARINE ENGINEERS
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SESSION



1910-1911

President : SIR DAVID GILL, K.C.B., F.R.S., etc.

VOL. XXII.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AND PRESENT-
ATION OF AWARDS.

By SIR DAVID GILL, K.C.B., F.R.S., D.Sc. (PRESIDENT).

On Monday, October 31st, 1910.

REPORT OF ANNUAL DINNER

Held in the King's Hall, Holborn Restaurant,

Friday, November 4th, 1910.

The PRESIDENT, SIR DAVID GILL, K.C.B., F.R.S., D.Sc.,
in the Chair.

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