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## OUR PORTRAIT.

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Mr. JOHN DAVIDSON.

MR. JOHN DAVIDSON, whose portrait forms the frontispiece of the present issue, is one of the best known members of our society. He became a member in 1895, when quite a young lad, and a year after was appointed Assistant Secretary. In 1897 he was unanimously elected Hon. Secretary, and has held the position ever since to the entire satisfaction of the members. The society was inaugurated in 1886, and when Mr. Davidson submitted his first report in 1898, twelve years later, the membership consisted of twenty-eight members all told. Mr. Davidson set himself steadily to increase the popularity of the society in order to attract new members, and with that end in view he took the initiative in making an application to the Senatus of the University for permission to hold its meetings in one of the classrooms, and the permission to do so was happily granted. The result is to be seen in the large addition to the membership, which is now over 200. The publishing of Transactions and a "local list" had been spoken of as long ago as 1893, but very little had been done in the way of realising it. Mr. Davidson threw himself into it with characteristic energy, and helped largely to bring the project to fruition. The first number of the Transactions was published in 1903, and they have since been issued annually.

Mr. Davidson is an enthusiastic worker in connection with the study of Natural History, and is well up in several of its divisions. In 1901 he gained a first-class certificate in the Advanced Stage of Botany, and is also an accomplished field botanist, with an extensive knowledge of the Flora of the Aberdeen district. Entomology has also come in for a share of his attentions, and he has done some systematic work in connection with it. As a photographer he has few equals, both his knowledge of the art, and the nature of his work being equally excellent. He has also taken a great interest in microscopy, and his collection of slides is very large, the botanical section especially being of outstanding value. Mr. Davidson has also made a study of electricity, and knows the subject well both in theory and practice.

Mr. Davidson's personal qualities are of the best, hence his great popularity among the members. He is easy of access, and ever ready to impart of his knowledge to others.