

Sir Ambrose Fleming (1849– 1945) Born on 29th November.

Sir Ambrose Fleming was an engineer. He was an electronic engineer. That means he studied electricity. He experimented with electricity. He is called the “*father* of electronics”. That means his inventions helped inventors who came after him. They invented electronic things we use today. Without Sir Ambrose Fleming's discoveries we would never have had telephones. The first computers used his discoveries.



Sir Ambrose Fleming was a Christian. He helped people understand that God created the world. “The world did not make itself,” he said. “That would be unscientific.”

Sir Ambrose Fleming was educated at home by his mother until he was ten. His family was not rich. His mother had two books to teach from. One was the Bible. That is the best book of all. You learn from the Bible in your lessons too. The other book was *The Child's Guide to Knowledge*. This was a big book. It was full of questions and answers.

It began like this:

What is the world?
The earth we live on.
Who made it?
The Great and Good God.

There were four hundred and twenty eight pages. Can you find a book in your house with that many pages? Young Ambrose learned all the

questions and answers off by heart. He learned:

What is the lamprey?

A small eel-shaped fish much esteemed by epicures,
particularly when potted or stewed.

The book went on and on. Four hundred and twenty eight pages! All to learn by heart! The last question was:

What was the origin of the figure of Britannia?

Ambrose learned it *all*. When he grew up he often told people some of the questions and answers. They were still stored in his mind. We think this is a strange way to learn. But it did not hurt young Ambrose. He became a great man of science. The first questions in the book are very good ones. Sir Ambrose never forgot them.

What is the world?

The earth we live on.

Who made it?

The Great and Good God.

Can you learn them too?