

ALFRED PERRY, who was born at Taunton in 1834, gained his first professional experience in the office of the late Mr. J. S. Cockings of Birmingham, Consulting Engineer and Patent Agent. After spending four years there he was engaged for twelve months as a draughtsman in the iron building and roofing works of Mr. J. H. Porter at Birmingham. He was then employed in a similar capacity from 1857 to 1861 at the Ashbury Railway Carriage and Wagon Works, Manchester, and subsequently for twelve months by Messrs. Chance Brothers & Co., the lighthouse engineers of Birmingham. From 1862 to 1864 he was an assistant in the works of Messrs. Ormerod, Grierson & Co., of Manchester, and was then for three years assistant manager to the Birmingham Railway Carriage and Wagon Company.

In 1867 Mr. Perry re-entered the service of Messrs. Chance Brothers & Co., with whom he remained until his death. He became chief of the drawing office, and during his long connection with the firm assisted in the design and execution of dioptric apparatus and of iron lighthouse towers, more particularly as to the mechanical details. In this work he was associated successively with Mr. J. T. Chance, Dr. John Hopkinson and Mr. James Kenward, and his great natural ability and long experience were of considerable service to lighthouse authorities in all parts of the world.

Mr. Perry died from heart disease on the 12th of December, 1892, after an illness of two months. An accomplished draughtsman and good mechanic, he was untiring in his efforts to bring to perfection whatever he undertook, and was faithful and loyal to the employers he served for so many years. Mr. Perry was elected an Associate of the Institution on the 4th of December, 1877, and was transferred to the class of Associate Member on its creation in the following year.

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JOHN RICHARD HUTCHINSON WILLIAMSON, son of the late Mr. John Williamson of Darlington, was born on the 6th of August, 1859, and was educated at the Durham College of Science, Newcastle-on-Tyne, which represents the Faculties of Science and Engineering in the University of Durham. There he took honours in mathematics and physics, and came out first in the final examination for the Associateship in Science, with the Charles Mather Scholarship of the annual value of £40, tenable for two years.

After spending five years in the works of the Darlington Wagon and Engineering Company, he was appointed in July, 1882, Electrician to the Metropolitan Brush Electric Light Company, for which firm he installed electrical plant at the Royal Mint and carried out other important works in London. He held this post until November, 1883, after which he practised for a time as a Consulting Engineer.

In October, 1884, Mr. Williamson was appointed, out of seventy candidates, Engineer and Manager to the Manchester Edison-Swan Company, for which he successfully carried out the entire incandescent lighting of the Manchester Exhibition and a large number of installations in cotton-mills, warehouses and private mansions. To such a position did the Company attain under his management that the Board elected him Managing-Director in 1888, which office he was unfortunately compelled by ill-health to resign in the following year.

Under medical advice, Mr. Williamson left England for New South Wales in October, 1889, and by the following March had so far recovered as to be able to assume the post of Managing Director of the Williamson Electrical and Engineering Company, which had been formed by a few gentlemen who took great interest in his career. He soon obtained some important contracts in and around Sydney, amongst the works he carried out for the Company being the electric lighting of the Empire Hotel, the Garrick Theatre, the Imperial Arcade and Arcade Street in that city, and the Central Station lighting of the borough of Redfern. The strain was, however, too great, and the lung trouble from which he had been suffering became so acute that he was obliged to relinquish work entirely. In the autumn of 1892 he left Sydney and took up his quarters in a vineyard cottage at Allandale on Hunter River. For a time he appeared slightly better; but on the 7th of December, after his evening meal, hæmorrhage set in and he passed away in sleep at noon on the following day.

Mr. Williamson was a Member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society. He was elected an Associate Member of this Institution on the 6th of March, 1888.

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