

He continued to hold this appointment for nearly ten years, till March 1892, when he was selected by the Government of India to assist in the drafting of the Merchant Shipping Bill, which was introduced in the Imperial Council only a few days before his death, accompanied by a eulogium from Sir Alexander Miller (Legislative Member of Council), that was a fitting acknowledgment of the services he had rendered.

On the conclusion of his work at Simla he was, in October, 1892, deputed to the special, and, what was thought, enviable duty of preparing a waterworks project for Srinagar, Kashmir, but had been there only a few days when he was seized with malignant smallpox, caught in the native town, and it terminated fatally after only five days' illness.

Thus was cut prematurely short what promised to be a very brilliant career. In the opinion of the Chief Secretary and the other chiefs of the P.W.D., he would have risen to the very highest posts open to good Civil Engineers. Mr. Bestic was elected an Associate Member of the Institution on the 6th of May, 1884.

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HERBERT GEORGE HUXLEY, son of Mr. William Thomas Huxley, was born in London on the 10th of March, 1847. In 1865 he was articled for five years to Messrs. Richard Moreland and Son of Old Street, St. Luke's, where he gained a practical knowledge of mechanical engineering both in the workshops and in the drawing-office. On the expiration of his pupilage he went to Ireland for two years to take charge of the construction of the Navan and Kingscourt Railway for the contractor, Mr. John Edwards, of Dublin.

After the completion of that line Mr. Huxley was engaged from 1873 to 1877 for Messrs. Telford Macneill & Co. in superintending—in conjunction with the late Mr. W. J. Maxwell<sup>1</sup>—the construction of the Beyrout Waterworks in Syria. In spite of many difficulties the works were successfully carried out, chiefly by native workmen, the supply being obtained from the Nahr-el-Kelb, or Dog River, to the source of which caverns, extending for miles underground, conveyed melted snow from the mountains of Lebanon.

On returning from Syria in 1877 Mr. Huxley undertook the management of the Steam Cooperage and Vat Company's works

<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Proceedings Inst. C.E., vol. lxxi. p. 384.

at Whitechapel, which post involved the maintenance in working order of a large amount of machinery. From 1880 to 1883 he was engaged for Mr. Edward Easton in preparing schemes for the water-supply of Barcelona, Vienna and Rosario. In 1884 Mr. Huxley proceeded to Weesp, in the Netherlands, to take charge for Messrs. Joseph Quick and Son of the construction of the "Vecht" water-supply for Amsterdam. On the completion of those works in 1888 he went to Moscow to prepare a scheme for the water-supply of that city. While there he contracted a severe chill, which on his return to England developed into influenza and pneumonia.

For the next four years Mr. Huxley was engaged upon various water projects for, amongst other places, Palermo, Vigo and Athens; he also designed constructional ironwork for buildings and reported upon mining and railway schemes. His health, however, had become permanently affected and he succumbed, after only three days' illness, to an acute attack of pneumonia on the 1st of June, 1893.

Mr. Huxley was a competent engineer in the branch of the profession to which he devoted himself; industrious and painstaking, his work was always good and reliable. He was elected an Associate of the Institution on the 1st of February, 1876, and was placed in the class of Associate Member on its creation in 1878.

HERBERT CHARLES ERSKINE VERNON, youngest son of Lieutenant-Colonel George Vernon, late Coldstream Guards, of Harefield Park, Uxbridge, was born on the 28th of September, 1851. After being educated at Harrow, he entered the Royal Indian Engineering College at Coopers Hill, from which he passed with honours into the service of the Public Works Department of the Government of India. The usual custom for young engineers thus appointed being to gain some practical experience before leaving this country, he spent ten months on the Chatham Dockyard Extension, under the late Mr. E. A. Bernays,<sup>1</sup> then Superintending Civil Engineer of all the Admiralty works at Chatham and at Sheerness.

Mr. Vernon landed in India in December, 1874, and in the following month was placed in charge of the Lucknow District Provincial Works, which post he held until March, 1876, when he

<sup>1</sup> Minutes of Proceedings Inst. C.E., vol. xci. p. 408.