

WILLIAM RICHARD ACTON served a pupillage in the office of the Borough Surveyor of Salford, and was afterwards engaged from 1866 to 1874 as an assistant in that office. In February, 1874, he was appointed surveyor to the Moss Side Local Board of Health, near Manchester, now the Moss Side District Council, which post he held until his death. His first duty was to make a fresh survey of the district, after which the level of the streets was raised and the place properly drained. The amount of labour required to place the district in a satisfactory condition was considerable, and Mr. Acton devoted himself with unsparing energy to the task, which he successfully carried out. He died at his residence, Moss Lane East, on the 14th April, 1899.

Mr. Acton was elected an Associate on the 4th December, 1877, and was subsequently placed in the class of Associate Members.

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THOMAS STANLEY CLEMINSHAW, born on the 10th March, 1851, served apprenticeships at the London Steam Crane and Engine Works, Leicester, and at the Gorton Works of Messrs. Beyer, Peacock and Company. From 1873 to 1875 he was engaged at the South Metropolitan Gasworks, Old Kent Road, and in 1876 he proceeded to New Zealand as Manager of the Christchurch Gasworks. He held that post for five years, during part of which time he also acted as Engineer to the Ashburton Gas Company in the same colony. In 1882 he was in charge of the reconstruction and extension of the works of the Greymouth Gas Company, and in 1883 he was appointed Engineer to the Launceston Gas Company, Tasmania. Mr. Cleminshaw carried out the duties of that post with satisfaction to his directors until 1897. In the following year he accepted the appointment of Manager to the Colombo Gas and Water Company, Ceylon.

Mr. Cleminshaw's career was unfortunately cut short by fever, which proved fatal on the 18th March, 1899. He was elected an Associate Member of the Institution on the 27th May, 1884.

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JAMES HENING CUMING was born on the 26th December, 1863. After matriculating at the Royal University of Ireland, he was for one session an engineering student at Queen's College,

Belfast, and then went through the 3 years' course at the Royal Indian Engineering College, Coopers Hill. There he obtained scholarships in mathematics and applied mechanics, and also the Fellowship of the College; but, owing to a defect in his eyesight, he was not appointed to the Public Works Department of India. From November, 1886, to April, 1887, he was engaged as an Assistant on the construction of the Alexandra Graving Dock, Belfast. In April, 1887, he went to India as an Assistant Engineer on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, where he was first employed on the main line between Nagpur and Raipur. In 1895 he was appointed District Engineer at Bilaspur, Central Provinces, and from March, 1897, he acted as personal assistant to the Agent and Chief Engineer.

Mr. Cuming was forced by ill-health to come home on leave in the summer of 1897. The change was unfortunately of no avail, and on the 1st November, 1898, he died at Nordrach in Baden. Mr. Cuming was full of energy and enthusiasm and his early death is much to be regretted. He was elected an Associate Member of the Institution on the 4th February, 1890.

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JOHN FRANCIS FOSTER, born at Ventry, co. Kerry, on the 4th August, 1867, was the eldest son of the Rev. Nicholas Foster, M.A., Rector of St. Mary's, Belfast. In 1884 he became an apprentice in the Locomotive Works of the Great Southern and Western Railway of Ireland, at Inchicore, where he remained for three years, during which time he passed with distinction the engineering examinations of the Royal University of Ireland. He was then employed on the staff of the Arterial Drainage Department in the survey of the River Barrow, and subsequently acted as inspector of the mains for Charters Tower Waterworks, Queensland, under Mr. James Price. He was also employed by the Great Southern and Western Railway to inspect ironwork for several large bridges. He was associated with various light railways which were constructed in co. Donegal, and he assisted in the preparation of contract plans for Wicklow Harbour for Mr. Alfred D. Price. During the last few years he assisted Mr. J. H. H. Swiney in the preparation of schemes for water supply and sewerage in the North of Ireland.

In addition to his engineering work, Mr. Foster held a commission as Captain on the staff of the Donegal Artillery. He acted