

line. When, in 1897, the Great Northern Railway Company undertook the construction of their new railway and goods depôt at Manchester, Mr. Thornton accepted the post of chief assistant to Mr. W. T. Foxlee, the Resident Engineer, and on that gentleman's retirement in 1899, Mr. Thornton was appointed Resident and District Engineer, and completed these important works, which included the construction of high- and low-level station yards, warehouses and quay-walls, the widening of an underground canal and the building of viaduct approaches. He was also responsible for the maintenance of the railway and works.

In 1902 he returned to the North Eastern Railway as leading engineering assistant to Mr. W. J. Cudworth, the Chief Engineer at York, where he exercised control over a large staff of engineering assistants and draughtsmen, and, under the direction of his chief, he supervised the design and construction of work carried out in connection with about 900 miles of railway, comprising such important centres as Leeds, York, Middlesbrough and other large towns. His death on the 26th September, 1904, as the result of a railway accident, brought an active and useful career to a premature close.

Mr. Thornton was elected an Associate Member of the Institution on the 1st December, 1891, and was transferred to the class of Members on the 23rd February, 1904.

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PHILIP WILLIAM WALL died on the 29th August, 1904, in his eighty-first year. After completing his studies at King's College, London, he served a pupilage under Mr. E. Slaughter, and was subsequently engaged for several years on the Manchester and Sheffield, Huddersfield and Manchester, and other railway works. In 1856 he proceeded to India at the request of the Madras Government to report on a coal-formation on the Upper Godavari River, and four years later he went again to that country as Resident Engineer on the Calcutta and South Eastern Railway. Subsequently he was appointed Chief Engineer of the line, which was completed and opened under his direction. After his return to England, on the completion of those works, he acted for a time as the engineering representative in this country of the Municipality of Calcutta. Between 1873 and 1876 he was occupied on railway construc-

tion in Sweden. For many years previous to his death, however, Mr. Wall had not engaged in the active pursuit of the profession.

He had made a special study of the science of geology and was a Fellow of the Geological Society.

Mr. Wall was elected a Member of the Institution on the 2nd May, 1865.

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CHARLES EDMUND WEBBER, C.B., MAJOR-GENERAL R.E. retired, died at Margate on the 23rd September, 1904, at the age of 66. Born in Ireland on the 5th September, 1838, he entered the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich in 1853, and 2 years later received a commission as lieutenant in the Corps of Royal Engineers. After receiving further instruction in the military art at Chatham, he returned to Ireland, where he was occupied on the construction of barracks at Lough Swilly. Proceeding thence to India, in the troublous times of the Mutiny, he served 2 years with the colours, taking an active part in many engagements. In 1861, shortly after his return to England, he was appointed Instructor in Surveying and Topography at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. During the Austro-Prussian war of 1866 he was despatched to the front to report to the British military authorities on the engineering and telegraphic operations. Attaining the rank of captain in 1867, he was employed for 3 years chiefly on military duty at home.

In 1870 Captain Webber's services were placed at the disposal of the Postmaster-General, who appointed him Divisional Engineer in command of the Royal Engineers employed in the Postal Telegraph Service. His past experience and training in the field here stood him in good stead, and his appointment was amply justified by the able and resourceful manner in which he carried out his task. His qualities as an organizer were exceptional, and in training over 300 non-commissioned officers and men in the work of telegraphy, he rendered a very valuable public service.

His work for the Post Office was completed in 1879, and subsequently he took part in three military expeditions, first to South Africa in 1879, when the first Boer War broke out, and afterwards to Egypt in 1882 and again in 1884, when he was Director of Army Telegraphs. In 1885 he retired from the service