

FRANCIS CHARLES MIERS, second son of the late Mr. John Miers, F.R.S., was born on the 30th June, 1821, at Concou, near Valparaiso, Chile. He was educated in England and commenced his practical training at the works of Mr. John Hague, under Mr. (afterwards Sir Frederick) Bramwell, completing it at Messrs. Miller and Ravenhill's Marine Engine Works, Glass House Fields, London. In 1842 he entered the drawing office of Messrs. Fox, Henderson and Company, Birmingham, remaining there until 1844. He was then invited by his brother, the late Mr. J. W. Miers,¹ to join him in Brazil, and in the following year they established an engineering factory at Rio de Janeiro. Between 1848 and 1853 Mr. F. C. Miers undertook the superintendence of the Ponta d'Arèa Foundry and Shipbuilding works on the opposite side of the bay; but in the latter year he rejoined his brother at their own establishment, where an extensive business was built up in the construction of machinery of various descriptions, and in the building of steamboats for river and coast service. The partners also undertook many Government contracts, including contracts for dredging, and for the erection of iron structures and lighthouses at Rio Grande do Sul and on the Abrothos reefs; the latter being erected under the personal supervision of Mr. Francis Miers. Mr. Miers returned to England in 1862, and in 1866 he founded, in co-operation with his brother-in-law, the mercantile and engineering firm of Fry, Miers and Company, London, supplying steam-vessels, machinery, and other engineering materials, for railways and other undertakings in Brazil.

Mr. Miers married, in 1850, Susan Mary Fry, who survives him. In 1886 he retired into private life. Mr. Miers died, after an illness of some months, on the 20th February, 1908, in his 87th year, at his residence, Eden Cottage, Beckenham, Kent.

He was elected a Member of The Institution on the 3rd March, 1863.

GEORGE EDWARD PAGE, who died on the 12th November, 1907, was the only son of the late Mr. George Thomas Page, of Plymouth.² After serving his pupillage under the late Mr. James Wilson, he was appointed to the metropolitan district of the London and South Western Railway, resigning in October, 1876, to take up an appointment on the staff of the Cape Government Railways. In

¹ Minutes of Proceedings Inst. C.E., vol. cix, p. 429.

² *Ibid*, vol. x, p. 91.

Cape Colony, he was engaged principally on the Eastern system under Mr. A. E. Schmid and Mr. F. G. Slessor. He was promoted Acting District Engineer in 1878 and District Engineer in the following year, and later he acted for a time as Chief Resident Engineer of the Eastern system. In April, 1882, the construction of the East London and Queenstown line upon which he was engaged being practically completed, he left South Africa. Early in 1884 he went to India as Executive Engineer on the Southern Mahratta Railway, and held the appointment about 3 years. Having subsequently carried out a railway survey for the Pudukota State, Southern India, he accepted the position of Contractor's Engineer and Agent on an important section of the Tansa Water Works, Bombay. Mr. Page was among the few engineers chosen for a difficult survey in the Malay Peninsula for the late Sultan of Johore, and on the completion of this work, he retired from the profession and came home. For several years he was a regular contributor to the Indian technical press.

Mr. Page was elected an Associate of The Institution on the 2nd February, 1875, was subsequently placed in the class of Associate Members, and was transferred to the class of Members on the 12th May, 1891.

JAMES NELSON SHOOLBRED died on the 8th September, 1907, at Kirkwall in Orkney. Born at Bangor in 1835, his early practical experience was gained under the late Mr. Charles Blacker Vignoles, Past-President, on the construction of the Tudela and Bilbao railway in Spain. After a short period in Ireland, he went in 1865 to Liverpool, where he engaged in consulting practice. His work at Liverpool lay chiefly in the design and construction of large warehouses and industrial works, involving heavy ironwork, but he also carried out tidal survey work in the estuary of the Mersey. The experience thus gained he embodied in a Paper,¹ "On the Changes in the Tidal Portion of the River Mersey, and in its Estuary," which was read before The Institution in 1876, in which year he removed from Liverpool to Westminster.

Mr. Shoolbred's association with municipal electrical enterprise in this country began in 1888, when he carried out the electric lighting of Bradford, before which date only ten towns in Great Britain were lighted by electricity. Subsequently he acted as consulting

¹ Minutes of Proceedings Inst. C.E., vol. xlv, p. 20.