

GEORGE EDWARD ORMISTON, born on the 8th February, 1844, at Glasgow, died at Kensington on the 3rd October, 1913. After gaining valuable experience of dock work at Cardiff and on the Surrey Commercial Docks, he entered the service of the Indian Public Works Department in 1870. On the formation of the Bombay Port Trust in 1873 he joined the engineering staff, under his brother, the late Mr. Thomas Ormiston,¹ the first Chief Engineer. Later he became resident engineer, and on his brother's retirement in 1882 succeeded him as Chief Engineer, a post which he held until his own retirement, owing to ill-health, in 1892. He was responsible for the Victoria and Prince's docks, Merewether dry dock, the Apollo Bunder extension, and many other important works.

Mr. Ormiston was elected an Associate of The Institution on the 20th May, 1873, was subsequently placed among the Associate Members, and was transferred to the class of Members on the 4th November, 1879.

PETER ALEXANDER PETERSON, born at Niagara in 1839, died at Montreal on the 21st November, 1913. Trained under Mr. T. C. Keefer, he was subsequently occupied for several years on railway and other works in Canada and the United States, notably on the Intercolonial Railway and, as Chief Engineer, on the Toronto Waterworks. He then joined the staff of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and in 1890 was appointed Engineer-in-Chief of the system. In this capacity he carried out many important extensions and improvements, and designed and built the bridge across the St. Lawrence at Montreal. He had been in retirement for several years owing to ill-health.

Mr. Peterson was elected a Member of The Institution on the 1st December, 1874.

CHRISTOPHER EDWARD PHIPPS, born at Devizes on the 17th October, 1847, died at Ealing on the 22nd May, 1914. Educated at Uppingham and apprenticed to Messrs. Sharp, Stewart and Company, he afterwards obtained an appointment on the Madras Railway and left for India in 1871. He obtained rapid promotion in the Company's service, until he was appointed

¹ Minutes of Proceedings Inst. C.E., vol. lxxi, p. 409.

Locomotive Superintendent, a position which he held until his retirement in 1902.

Mr. Phipps was elected a Member of The Institution on the 6th December, 1892.

SIR WILLIAM HENRY PREECE, K.C.B., F.R.S., Past-President Inst. C.E., and formerly Engineer-in-Chief of the Post Office, died at Penrhos, Carnarvon, on the 6th November, 1913, in his eightieth year. Born at Bryn Helen, Carnarvon, on the 15th February, 1834, he was educated at King's College, London, and gained practical experience in the offices of the late Edwin and Latimer Clark, then engineers to the Electric Telegraph Company. In 1853 Preece joined the staff of that company, which subsequently became by amalgamation the Electrical and International Telegraph Company, and after rapid promotion was appointed Superintendent of the Southern Division. From 1858 to 1862 he was also Engineer to the Channel Islands Telegraph Company, and in 1860 he became Superintendent of Telegraphs on the London and South Western Railway, where he introduced the Preece block system of working single lines and a system of electric communication between passengers and guard. When in 1870 the business of the various telegraph companies (about thirty in number) was transferred to the State, the subject of this memoir was appointed Engineer for the Southern Division of the State system with headquarters at Southampton. In 1877 he was appointed Electrician to the Post Office, and in 1892 he became in addition Engineer-in-Chief. He held this combined office until his retirement under the age rule in 1899, when he was appointed Consulting Engineer to the Post Office. In 1904 he resigned this office and devoted himself entirely to private practice in Westminster, in conjunction with Major Cardew and with two of his sons, Llewellyn and Arthur Preece. For his services to the nation he received a C.B. in 1894, and was created K.C.B. on his retirement in 1899.

As an investigator and inventor in the fields of electricity, telegraphy and telephony, Sir William Preece's record is one of sound and varied achievement. In earlier years he patented various systems of railway signalling and duplex telegraphy. His later work was connected with the improvement and perfecting of telegraphic apparatus, the introduction into this country of the telephone and the invention of several important improvements, and the origination of a method of signalling across space by induction