

OBITUARY.

HARRY EDWARD JONES, Past-President, second son of Mr. Robert Jones, M. Inst. C.E., was born in Chester on the 26th April, 1843. He was educated at the City of London School and Stepney Grammar School. He was articled in 1857 to Mr. J. H. Beattie, M. Inst. C.E., serving his pupilage in the locomotive shops of the London and South Western Railway. On completion of his apprenticeship, in 1860, he assisted his father in the erection of new gas-works, being resident engineer at small works for Toddington, Harlow, and Sawbridgeworth. He was also engaged upon the design of various large works, including those of the London Gas Light Company, the Commercial Gas Company, and the Leamington and Chester Gas Company.

At the age of 20 he became engineer to the Wandsworth and Putney Gas Company, whose works and mains were extended by him. During this period he was frequently consulted by foreign gas-companies, visiting Spain in 1863 and 1866, and Greece in 1865. He was also appointed engineer to the Watford and Rickmansworth Gas Companies, which appointments he held for many years. In 1869 he left the Wandsworth Company to take an appointment as engineer of the Ratcliff Gas Company, Wapping; and at this period he had also an extensive consulting practice in gaswork construction.

The Ratcliff Company amalgamated with the Commercial Company in 1875, and Mr. Jones became joint engineer with his father. He designed and supervised the construction of the Poplar works, which were commenced in 1876; and in 1880, on the retirement of his father, he was appointed chief engineer.

During the latter part of his service with the Commercial Company, he advised upon numerous gasworks including those of Eastbourne, Watford, Margate, Canterbury, Faversham, Whitstable, Woking, Enfield, Bishop's Stortford, Dublin, Boston, U.S.A., as well as the works of the European Gas Company in Northern France, of the Primitiva Gas Company of Buenos Aires, and of the Bombay Gas Company. He was also frequently consulted upon Parliamentary matters and engaged upon arbitrations, in which his forceful personality and confidence in his views rendered him particularly successful.

On resigning the position of Chief Engineer to the Commercial Gas Company in 1902, in which he was succeeded by his son, Mr. S. H. Jones, M. Inst. C.E., he was elected to the Board of Directors of that company. In 1905 he began to relinquish his consulting work, and to turn his attention towards administrative matters, serving on the boards of numerous gas-companies. At his death he was Chairman of the Wandsworth, Wimbledon, and Epsom, the

European, the Bombay, the Uxbridge, Wycombe and Maidenhead, the Primitiva, and the Loddon Gas Companies.

He was elected an Associate of The Institution in 1869, and transferred to the class of members in 1875. He became a member of Council in 1909, and served continuously on that body for 10 years. He was elected Vice-President in 1916, and occupied the Presidential Chair during the Session 1917-18. For his Paper¹ on "The Construction of Gasworks," in 1875, he received a Telford Medal and a Telford Premium. In 1880 he read a Paper² on "The Purification of Gas," and was awarded a Watt Medal and a Telford Premium; and in 1901 he read his third Paper³ before the Institution on "Modern Practice in the Manufacture and Distribution of Gas," for which he received a George Stephenson Medal and Telford Premium. He also contributed frequently to the discussions on Papers. His Presidential Address⁴ dealt with the revolution in the work of the gas-engineer brought about by recent changes in the use of coal-gas and its by-products.

Though he was one of the pioneers in the development of the gas industry in times when little scientific knowledge was available to assist the engineer, and was largely dependent on his own practical experience and personal observation, Mr. Jones was quick to realize the changing conditions in the production and application of coal-gas that marked the later years of his activities; and his insistence on the necessity of economy and consequently on the desirability of keeping capital expenditure as low as was consistent with efficiency and progress, had considerable influence on the attainment of the gas industry to its importance at the present time.

Mr. Jones was admitted a member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in 1878, and delivered the Hawksley Lecture before that Society in 1916. He was a member of the Institution of Gas Engineers, being President of that society during the Session 1903-4. He was for many years Chairman of the Gas Companies Protection Association, and was the first President of the National Gas Council. During the war he rendered valuable service as Chairman of the High Explosives Committee. He was also a Governor of the East London College, and a Justice of the Peace for the County of Essex. His chief recreation was riding and hunting, and he was successful in various events in which his horses had been entered.

He married in 1865 Louisa, daughter of Christopher Horne: his wife died in 1901. He passed away very suddenly at his residence, Marden Ash, Ongar, Essex, on the 24th March, 1925. Of his four sons, two predeceased him; and he is survived by Messrs. F. H. Jones and S. H. Jones, MM. Inst. C.E., and by three daughters.

¹ Minutes of Proceedings Inst.C.E., vol. xl, p. 2.

² *Ibid*, vol. lxi, p. 1.

³ *Ibid*, vol. cxlvi, p. 43.

⁴ *Ibid*, vol. ccv, p. 3.