

Though without opportunity of doing any very conspicuous work, Mr. Potheary saw much and varied service, and he was held by his superior officers, as well as by his contemporaries, to be one of the ablest of those selected by competitive examination, and to be one of the most promising men in the department. Fond of the profession, of easy and polished manners and refined taste, endowed with a good memory, well read in the current literature of the day, with a good voice and a correct ear, he was a favourite not only with the members of his own department, but also with the other officers of Government with whom he had to deal. His geniality, amiability, and kindness of heart endeared him to many a home, and he was as much liked in private life, as he was esteemed and respected in his professional capacity. The Royal Indian Engineering College at Cooper's Hill is indebted to his exertions as Secretary to the Committee which inaugurated and successfully established the scholarships given by the Indian Civil Engineers to the College.

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Mr. RICHARD STEVEN ROPER, son of the late Mr. Thomas Roper, of Ulverston, was born on the 20th of February, 1835. He studied under Dr. Muspratt in the School of Chemistry, Liverpool, from whom he received, in 1852, a certificate in praise of his diligence, progress, and accuracy in analyses and assays. He afterwards became a student at the School of Mines, London, and on the 20th of January, 1855, he received a first-class certificate. After leaving the School of Mines, he was engaged under the late Mr. Ebenezer Rogers at the Abercarn Collieries, Monmouthshire, where, in addition to attending to the general routine of colliery work, he was much occupied in the laboratory. In 1856 he was employed at Dudley under Mr. Samuel H. Blackwell (a brother-in-law of Mr. Ebenezer Rogers), and in 1857 he entered the service of the Ebbw Vale Company, Monmouthshire, and was engaged at their Ebbw Vale and Victoria Iron Works, and also at their Pontypool works. Shortly after this, in conjunction with Mr. George Claridge, of Dudley, he took out a patent for an improved mode of manufacturing coke, and wrote a useful pamphlet on the desulphurization of coke. In 1859 he entered into partnership with Mr. John Lawrence, of the Cwmbran Iron Works, Monmouthshire. In 1856 he was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society of London; in 1859, a Fellow of the Chemical Society; in April 1872, an

Associate of the Institution of Civil Engineers. He was also a member of the South Wales Institute of Engineers and of the Iron and Steel Institute. He died in London on the 7th of April, 1876, after an illness extending over about three years.

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Mr. PETER SOAMES was born at East Greenwich in the year 1830. He was educated for three years (1847-9) in the Applied Science Department, King's College, London, of which he became an Associate in 1849, and took Honours at the London University. Having acquired a taste for mechanics, through frequent visits to the works of one of his brothers, an extensive manufacturer, he was articled for three years (1849-52) to Mr. Albert Robinson, of the late firm of Messrs. Robinsons and Russell, of Millwall. In 1852 he accepted an appointment to take charge of the erection and management of sugar machinery and plant on several estates in Jamaica. The effects of the climate necessitated his return to England, and in 1855 he commenced business as a mechanical engineer on his own account, at the Morden Iron Works, East Greenwich, and was chiefly occupied in the design and construction of steam-engines, sugar machinery, and mill work, introducing several improvements in sugar-cane mills, and in sugar-boiling and treating apparatus, upon which class of machinery he was frequently consulted. Finding this field of occupation too limited, in 1864 he went to Siam, where he erected a large sugar factory for the King, which gave great satisfaction. He suggested various public works of importance, such as lines of submarine and land telegraphic communication, which he worked out in a practical way; but unfortunately the climate did not agree with his constitution, for he was stricken down by fever, which prostrated him for a long time.

Amongst other things to which Mr. Soames devoted himself was the perfecting of the wire-rope and telegraph-cable-making machinery of Messrs. William and Archibald Smith, for Messrs. Glass and Elliot, and others. This brought him in contact with Mr. William Smith, Assoc. Inst. C.E., with whom in 1867-8 he became associated in connection with the "Artizan" engineering journal, at first as assistant editor and manager, and in 1870 he became the proprietor of that journal, which he continued to conduct until early in 1872. In the same year Messrs. Spon published for him "A Treatise on the Manufacture of Sugar from the Sugar Cane." Mr. Soames was an excellent mathematician and a good