

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

mechanic; his analytical powers and ability to deal with scientific facts were tested in many ways, especially in numerous heavy cases of litigation respecting mechanical inventions.

He was an agreeable companion, possessed of good natural ability and varied experience, refined and extended by study and observation. He was elected an Associate on the 6th of December, 1870, and he died at Hastings on the 1st of February, 1876, in the forty-seventh year of his age.

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Mr. GEORGE THOMPSON was born at Greenwich on the 26th of March, 1839. In 1849 he was sent to a school near Stuttgart, which he left in 1852, continuing his studies at Dr. Knightley's, in the neighbourhood of London, until 1854. From 1855 to 1857 he served a pupilage under Mr. W. L. Arrowsmith, superintendent of Government works at Malta, and was put on the engineering staff of the gas-works in that island. He returned to England in 1857, and soon afterwards was engaged for one year as a draughtsman at the locomotive works of Messrs. Beyer, Peacock and Co. In 1858 he left for South America, with the object of allying himself with a brother who was occupied in mercantile pursuits, but after a time this idea was abandoned, and in September of the same year he joined the staff of the Asuncion and Villa Rica railway in Paraguay, under the late Mr. George Paddison, M. Inst. C.E., becoming in 1862 one of the Assistant Engineers to Messrs. Burrell and Valpy, M.M. Inst. C.E., the then Engineers in Chief of that railway. Although a mere youth, he was at this time considered to be one of the best Guarani scholars, besides speaking fluently five or six other languages. The war between Paraguay and the allied forces of Brazil and the Argentine and Oriental Republics having broken out in the latter part of 1864, Mr. Thompson, in 1865, offered his services as a military engineer to the Paraguayan President, Don Francisco S. Lopez, and this offer being accepted, he joined the army in the June of that year, and took a prominent part in the war until the end of 1868. He chose many of the positions and designed and constructed many of the defences during the war, and his achievements will always live in South American history, as he held at bay the fleet of the allies for several weeks, whilst in command of a river battery at Angostura, a few miles below Asuncion. Although obliged to capitulate, the allies allowed him all the honours of war, as he refused to surrender at discretion.