

ALFRED HOPE WOOD, son of Mr. Daniel Wood, was born at Hastings, on the 29th of March, 1826, and received his education at the school of a Mr. Banks, Bleak House, in that town. In his fourteenth year, he began life as a junior clerk to the late Mr. W. Ginner, then manager of the Hastings Gas Company. From that date up to his retirement in 1887 he was uninterruptedly associated with the Company. When Mr. Wood entered the service of the Gas Corporation the latter's offices were in a small building in a back yard in Winding Street, its insignificance being a strong contrast to the commodious offices now possessed by the Company in Queen's Road. The subject of this notice, began in a humble way, his duties consisting chiefly in having to attend to the books and run to and fro with messages. There were not more than about five men then in the Company's employ, and one gas-holder was sufficient to supply the gas consumed, the customers numbering not more than two or three hundred. Mr. Wood saw the second gas-holder built as well as destroyed, and about the year 1847 or 1848 the third was constructed. The size of the gas-works went on growing year after year, and the number of consumers increased with the rapidly rising population, and with this progress grew Mr. Wood's importance and usefulness. He stuck at his work with a persistence and reliability that characterized the whole of his career, the duties of his working hours being supplemented by the studies and self-education to which he devoted a large amount of attention after business was over. From fourteen years of age till long after he obtained his majority, and at a period, too, when half-holidays and the relaxations from business so common in the present day were few and far between, it was his habit to rise early every morning, winter and summer, and to laboriously study until breakfast-time. In the study of practical chemistry his labours were unremitting, and in later years proved of utility to him in his professional career. Mr. Ginner resigned his position as Manager to the Company, and Mr. Wood was appointed, in January, 1857, Engineer and General Manager. He had made himself competent for this position almost unknown to anyone; he had sufficient foresight to see that the manufacture of gas would in the future assume a more scientific position in the world, and he worked himself up to meet that altered condition of things.

In the early days of his connection with the Gas Company, nobody knew anything about the quality of gas, or the measures that should be taken to test it. Mr. Wood started an analysis of

the gas about the year 1859, previous to which there was no record kept of the quality. In addition to rearranging the works of his own Company, at a cost of £40,000, Mr. Wood erected gas-works at Robertsbridge and Battle. Despite his arduous duties, he found time for other work. For years he was a constant lecturer at the now defunct Mechanics' Institute, the Historical and Philosophical Society, and other Associations in Hastings. Among other scientific subjects on which he lectured were:—"Coal Combustion," "Peculiarities of Combustion," "The Manufacture of Gas," "New Inventions in Gas," "The Science of Light," &c. He also published a few pamphlets, some of which went through several editions, notably his "Guide to Gas-lighting," "Ventilation," and "Coal Storage and Spontaneous Combustion of Coals." He likewise, some years ago, wrote one on the subject of electric light, in which, whilst admitting that there was a future before the more modern mode of illumination, he strongly urged the opinion that there was no need for gas shareholders to tremble as to the result. He was elected an Associate of the Institution on the 5th of December, 1871, and on the division of that class in 1878 was graded Associate Member.

He was a leading member of the British Association of Gas Managers (now the Gas Institute), as well as first President of the Southern Association of Gas Engineers and Managers. He died on the 15th of September, 1889; and the large concourse of mourners at his funeral, in the Hastings Borough Cemetery, testified to the respect in which he was held as a good citizen and an upright man.

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EDWARD WALTER NEALOR WOOD was born in London on the 11th of January, 1856; he was the only son of John Turtle Wood, the antiquarian, whose name is best known in connection with the discovery of the Temple of Diana, at Ephesus.

Mr. Wood was educated at Rossall and Finchley, and was articled in 1873 to Mr. William Baker, Engineer-in-Chief of the London and North Western Railway. During his pupilage he acted for a time as assistant to Mr. Louis French, the Resident Engineer on the Newry and Greenore Railway. Subsequently he was entrusted by Mr. Baker with the charge of the boring operations in connection with proposed works for the improvement of the old Holyhead Harbour.

On the expiration of his pupilage, in 1876, Mr. Wood was appointed Assistant Resident Engineer on the Holyhead Harbour