

with varied experience behind him, when he became assistant secretary; and when he retired, early in 1920, he had held the position for just under twenty-four years. He was born in the house of the London Library, St. James's Square, where his father was librarian. After schooling at Westminster he studied for and was called to the Bar, but never practised. At the age of twenty-four, in 1882, he became secretary to the Royal Society Committee arranging for observation of the transit of Venus. Then, after acting for a period as tutor to Lord Porchester, who became Earl of Carnarvon, he was secretary to the City and Guilds of London Institute and to the Art Union of London.

Fellows of the Royal Society still living will remember Harrison's entry there in 1896, when he succeeded the late Mr. Herbert Rix as the last assistant secretary to occupy the residential quarters designed for such use on the top floor of the Society's apartments. He did important services to the Society in a number of directions. The publication of the annual Year Book was due to him, he did essential work for the first three editions of the historical "Record of the Royal Society", and the attendance of the assistant secretary as minute-clerk at the Council meetings appears to have been an innovation due to him.

In those days of relative ease and leisure in the Society's affairs, Harrison, a man of rather striking personality, found time for a number of other interests. He was known as a violinist and a yachtsman. The article on the violin in the "Encyclopædia Britannica" (11th edition) was written by him, and, being a skilful carpenter, he converted a twenty-foot open boat into a yacht largely with his own hands, details of the structure, it is said, being actually fabricated in the Royal Society's rooms.

Harrison's knowledge of the Society's traditions grew with his devotion to its interests, and the devotion, as the years went by, not unnaturally took a rather possessive tinge in a man of his masterful temperament. Officers whose own experience had grown with his were easily tolerant of this, but those who had to face the changes and developments which came into view with the end of the War in 1919 doubted Harrison's adaptability to the new needs. He retired on pension, and the Council recorded the thanks due to him for his conspicuous zeal and devotion to the Society's interests; but he had not gone willingly, and he kept aloof for his remaining twenty-six years from the Society which he had so well served in his middle period.

Mr. White was a man of a very different style and temperament, whose services to the Royal Society extended over no less than seventy-three years in all. His father, Henry White, had graduated at Cambridge and qualified in medicine, but never practised, his interests being predominantly those of a scholar. Henry White had joined the staff of the Society in 1868 to edit its "Catalogue of Scientific Papers", and later undertook also the catalogue of all the books and papers in the Society's own library. By 1872 he needed help with these undertakings; and having perhaps lost faith in the value of a formal higher education, or lacking the means to provide it for his son, he took the boy Alfred at the age of thirteen from the North London Collegiate School and brought him as his assistant into the library of the Royal Society. It is of interest to remember that the Society was then still accommodated in old Burlington House, and did not move to its present quarters until a year later. It was in the Society's

library, then, under his father's tuition and by dint of his own eager and unending diligence, that Alfred Hastings White obtained all that he ever had of secondary or higher education. He attained, in fact, to a fine though unusual scholarship, including a quite remarkable reader's command of languages, both ancient and modern, and a wide and detailed knowledge of the library in which he worked and which was to be for so many years under his care. Henry White died suddenly in the Society's meeting room in 1880, leaving his son, a young man of twenty-one, to be responsible alone for completing the catalogue of the library which was published in the following year.

In 1885 the Council appointed A. H. White "to assist the Secretaries in the work of publication and the work of the library pertaining to the office of Assistant Librarian", and this was his official position until he retired in 1930. In those forty-five years he had become the friend and helper of every fellow of the Society who used or took interest in the library, and of many whose papers he saw through the press. He had none of the system or technique of modern librarianship; but Nature, assisted, perhaps, by the manner of his training, had given him an extraordinary faculty of memory. References which he had once traced—shelf, volume and page—he seemed to retain indefinitely without written record and to produce at will. His unique knowledge of the library which he loved and cherished, his accumulating fund of varied information and bookish gossip, were almost too readily available to any fellow or visitor who showed interest. For many years he continued also to carry out the duty of formal editing and proof correction of all the Society's scientific publications, in addition to his library duties, and he retained this for the biological papers until he retired.

When he retired in 1930, after fifty-eight years of service, White was full of gratitude for the arrangement made, and anxious only for assurance that he would still have access to his beloved library. The Society gave him this with the appointment of 'consulting librarian', which he retained until his death, and only the failure of his eyesight restricted his enjoyment of it.

White is known to have contributed items to such publications as *Notes and Queries*, and sets of questions on general knowledge to the more popular Press, but he published little under his own name. The best-known publication attributable to him was his scholarly edition, which appeared in 1936, of William Stukeley's "Memoirs of Isaac Newton", the original manuscript of which had come into his possession. This treasure he later presented to the Society's library—a last token of a lifetime's affection.

To the memories of both these old friends, in such different ways its devoted servants, the Royal Society pays grateful tribute. H. H. DALE.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. R. C. Porter, for thirty-seven years lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering of the University of Birmingham, on July 28, aged seventy-three.

Mr. L. G. S. Reynolds, C.B., C.B.E., formerly Assistant Under-Secretary of State, Air Ministry, and since 1944 secretary to the Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries, on June 29.

Prof. Gustav Senn-Bernoulli, professor of botany in the University of Basel, on July 10, aged seventy.