

DR THOMAS WILLIAMSON.

Dr Williamson was born at Greenock in 1815, and claimed to be the last surviving representative of the ancient family of the Napiers of Kilmahew. When quite young, he was sent to study medicine at the University of Edinburgh, where he took his degree of M.D. at the age of twenty, in the same year becoming a licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons, an institution of which he was elected a Fellow in 1857. He was one of the oldest members of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. In early life he held several public offices. He was for fully thirty years surgeon in Leith Hospital, and during the whole of his long residence in Leith took a warm interest in the welfare of that institution. At the time of his death he held the appointments of parochial medical officer and public vaccinator for the parish of South Leith, and medical officer of health for the entire burgh. The latter office obliged him to board vessels coming from ports where any epidemic was prevalent, and to his foresight is due the readiness in which Leith has been held, during the late visitations of cholera on the Continent, to deal with any emergency which might arise. His various public duties were performed with untiring vigilance and care, and he enjoyed the unqualified respect of his fellow citizens, among whom his long residence rendered his figure one of the most familiar in the community. Dr Williamson was an occasional contributor to medical journals on topics chiefly relating to sanitation. He published various pamphlets, and delivered several popular lectures on subjects relating to public health, and read a paper on the subject at one of the meetings of the Social Science Congress at Edinburgh, which was printed in their reports. On returning from Colinton, he was seized with an attack of apoplexy which terminated fatally on the 30th of December 1885. He was elected a Fellow of this Society on 7th December 1857.

 JOHN MILROY, Assoc. Inst. C.E.

The death has just been announced of Mr John Milroy, Assoc. Inst. C.E., one of the remaining links between the present and the great days of railway construction in which the late Mr Thomas

Brassey played a prominent part. Mr Milroy died at his residence, Torsonce House, Stow, near Edinburgh. For the past two years he had been in failing health, and ten days before his decease he was seized with a shock of paralysis, from the effects of which he never recovered. Mr Milroy was very early associated with Mr Brassey in railway work, so far back, indeed, as the year 1840, in the construction of the first line between Glasgow and Greenock, now belonging to the Caledonian Railway Company, and on which he was a sub-contractor. The most serious portion of that contract was the cutting of the well-known Bishopton Tunnel, which was carried almost entirely through a dense tough whinstone. Mr Milroy subsequently acted as agent for Mr Brassey and for Messrs. Brassey & Mackenzie in the construction of lines of railway of great extent on the Continent, the first of them being the Paris and Rouen Railway, with the late Mr Joseph Locke as the engineer-in-chief. He was also engaged in the same capacity on the Rouen and Havre, the Nantes and Caen, and the Caen and Cherbourg railways. A few years later Mr Milroy likewise served Mr Brassey as his agent in the construction of well-nigh eighty miles of the Great Northern Railway; and there were various other railway undertakings with which he was connected, not only in this country, but also in France and Italy; indeed, a considerable portion of his life was spent on the Continent, where he became exceedingly well known and greatly esteemed on account of his personal character. About a quarter of a century ago, Mr Milroy settled down in his native country, in order to take charge of some large works in which he was interested, along with the eminent firm with whom he had been already associated for about twenty years. The chief of those works was the construction of the City of Glasgow Union Railway, from the plans of Mr (now Sir) John Fowler. It included some difficult pieces of constructional work to connect the Glasgow and South-Western Railway on the south of the Clyde with the North British system of railways on the north side. There was also a very important iron girder bridge across the Clyde, together with the Sighthill Railway and the Harbour Railway running past Pollokshields and under a public roadway, a canal, and two other lines of railway. While engaged in sinking the cylinders for the viaduct over the Clyde, Mr Milroy

brought into use a new excavator of his own invention, which subsequently did much excellent service in the construction of subaqueous works. While in and about Glasgow the deceased was induced to take two important contracts on his own account, two pieces of work involved in the extension of the harbour of Glasgow, namely, Plantation and Mavisbank Quays. In the former of these works, the superstructure was built on foundation piers which were formed of successive rings of brick-work, according to the plans of Mr James Deas, engineer to the Clyde Trust. In the construction of Mavisbank Quay, a marked improvement was made in the character of the subaqueous pier foundations, which were formed of concrete, the piers being most securely bound together. The Milroy excavator was here used to excellent purpose, enabling the piers to sink to depths of 50 ft. to 60 ft. or 70 ft. In these harbour works Mr Milroy was closely associated with Mr Deas, and he had as his right-hand man Mr George A. Waghorn, who also saw much service under Mr Brassey's firm. The various works which he carried out in the Glasgow district, including those for which he was the sole contractor, cost nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions sterling.

After having retired from active life, Mr Milroy passed his remaining years on the estate of Torsonce, which he acquired in the year 1879, and on which he occupied his time in making considerable improvements by building, roadmaking, &c. At his death he was eighty years of age. He was of a most retiring disposition, and when not occupied in superintending the improvements on his estate, devoted the last years of his life to the study of those branches of science which were most closely connected with his profession. He was elected a Fellow of this Society in 1875.
