

OBITUARY NOTICES.

David Harris, F.S.S. By Professor David Fraser Harris.

(Read January 6, 1913.)

DAVID HARRIS, F.S.S., was born at Dunster, Somerset, in June 1842. He came to Edinburgh in 1863 as manager in Scotland of the British Medical and General Life Association and the Britannia Fire Association, which companies flourished greatly under his management. In 1869 Mr Harris, then a Fellow of the Statistical Society, published an address on the "Principles and Bonus Appropriations of Life Assurance," a paper received with much interest.

In 1872 Mr Harris was invited to join the late Mr A. B. Fleming of Hillwood, Corstorphine, in the business undertaking which in a few years became Messrs A. B. Fleming & Co., Ltd., Caroline Park, Granton. As managing director of this company he notably increased the volume of its business. Although not a chemist, he was deeply interested in the chemical problems bound up with the purification of lubricating oils of mineral, vegetable, and animal origin, as also in the manufacture of black and of coloured printing inks, for which his firm was famous. He studied carefully the principles of trichromatic printing, and was closely associated with those who in this country developed the technique of this beautiful process. His services to the printing trade were acknowledged by the printers and lithographers of Edinburgh themselves presenting him with an illuminated address.

Mr Harris was a Fellow of the Society of Arts and a member of the Society of Chemical Industry, and was for many years a member of the Parish Council of the Parish of Cramond.

As one of the directors of the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, Mr Harris published in 1885 a pamphlet entitled, "Depression of Trade and National Progress and Prosperity, viewed in the Light of Statistics," which drew forth a good deal of favourable comment at the time. As a member of the Chamber of Commerce, he served for a number of years on the Board of Managers of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, and while holding this position drew up a statistical analysis of the income and expenditure of that noble charity.

No account would be complete without some allusion to Mr Harris's

great activities in the philanthropic and evangelical religious circles of the city. In 1867 he founded the well-known and still flourishing institution, the Edinburgh Industrial Brigade Home for receiving destitute lads, teaching them a trade, and enabling them to become useful citizens. In this undertaking he was assisted by Lord Polwarth, the late Rev. Dr Thomas Guthrie, and the late Mr E. Erskine Scott. He was also closely associated with the "Mars" training-ship in the Tay, the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, the Edinburgh Night Refuge, and the Grove Laundry—all charities that have done valuable work. Mr Harris was elected a Fellow of this Society in 1896: he died at Bath on June 17, 1912.