

OBITUARY NOTICE.

John Hardy, Librarian R.S.E.

Minute of Council, Royal Society, 25th June 1909.

“The Council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh desire to place on record their high appreciation of the services of their Librarian, Mr John Hardy, who died on the 25th May 1909.

“After a preliminary training in the Library of the University of Edinburgh, Mr Hardy became Assistant Librarian to the Society under the late Mr Gordon on 13th June 1887, and, on Mr Gordon’s retirement on 21st February 1902, was appointed Librarian. He was therefore twenty-two years in the service of the Society. The great improvement of the Library, begun by Mr Gordon, was carried so far by Mr Hardy that it is now one of the best Scientific Libraries in the United Kingdom. He was most zealous and efficient in the conduct of the general business of the Society. Many of the excellent arrangements now in use, which have contributed so much to the promptness and perfection of our publications, were devised by Mr Hardy; and in practice all of them owed much to his high intelligence and unremitting attention.

“A man of somewhat retiring disposition, he was nevertheless possessed of much knowledge of men and affairs, of great tact and judgment, of never-failing courtesy and discretion. The Fellows of the Society who knew him, and visitors who used the Library during his term of office, will remember with kindly regret his pleasant smile and obliging attentions: and the Officials of the Society will not soon forget the thorough knowledge of the Society’s affairs, and the admirable business capacity which did so much to lighten their work for the Society. During the removal of the Society to its new building Mr Hardy’s services were invaluable. The scheme for the rearrangement of the new building was to a very large extent due to him; and thanks to this scheme and the able training and supervision of his Chief, Mr Stewart the Sub-Librarian was able to complete the transference of the Library in a reasonable time with very little friction. Mr Hardy’s interest in the affairs of the Society did not flag even during his last illness, but continued keen till the day of his death; and it is a matter of much regret to the Council that he did not live to enjoy the improved accommodation now provided for the Librarian, and otherwise to reap the fruit of his faithful labour in the interest of the Royal Society.”