

Congregationalist's Death. - **Mr. James Henry MATTHEWS**, of Dunkeld, Surbiton Grove, a prominent worker for the Congregational Church in the town and surrounding district, died at the age of 76 at St. Mary's Hospital, Newport, on Saturday. Born in London, he came to the Island 30 years ago as an insurance agent for the Royal London Mutual Insurance Company, and after retiring in 1950 was appointed bailiff for Ryde Town Council, a post he relinquished a year ago. For the last 17 years he was hon. secretary of Elmfield Congregational Church and over the same period was hon. secretary of the North-East Wight Group of Congregational Churches. He was also hon. treasurer of the branch of Toc H, and a former hon. treasurer of the Island Old People's Welfare Association. A member of the local Darby and Joan Club, he sang with the club choir. His wife died 14 years ago.

The Elmfield Congregational Church was filled to capacity for the funeral service on Wednesday. The Rev. W. S. HERRINGTON, who officiated, paid tribute to Mr. MATTHEWS' work for the church and other organisations. The Darby and Joan Club choir sang "The Lord's my Shepherd," and Miss SAUNDERS accompanied the singing of the hymns "Guide me" and "Love divine." Mr. F. ADAMS (chairman) conducted the Toc H ceremony of light. The mourners were Mr. and Mrs. D. J. MARKEL (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. A. WYATT (nephew) and Mrs. WYATT, Mrs. L. MARKEL, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. MARKEL, Mrs. C. COOPER, Mrs. L. WHEELER and Mr. and Mrs. J. WOOD.

Congregational churches from all parts of the Island and all the organisations with which Mr. MATTHEWS had been associated were represented and sent wreaths. He was buried in his wife's grave at the cemetery.

Researched & typed by
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