

### DEATH OF LADY BROOKE-HITCHING AT RYDE.

We regret to announce the death of Lady BROOKE-HITCHING, widow of Sir Thomas BROOKE-HITCHING, which occurred on Sunday at her residence, Weston, Queen's-road, Ryde. Her ladyship had been in failing health since last Christmas when she was seriously ill for three months, but then made a good recovery. Since then she had motored in different parts of the country, visiting health resorts. About a month ago she was taken ill and an operation was performed in a London nursing home. It was evident however, that the end was not far off, and Lady BROOKE-HITCHING expressed a wish to spend her last days in the Island, which was very dear to her. She was brought here by motor ambulance and lingered for ten days, passing peacefully away as stated in her 84<sup>th</sup> year.

Lady BROOKE-HITCHING was Sarah Knussuth, daughter of David BROOKE, of Stannary. She was born at Halifax, Yorkshire, in 1849. Her father died within four months of her birth. Her upbringing was entrusted to her grandmother. She was an extremely well informed woman and had travelled extensively. She showed remarkable business foresight and ability in her early years, and these qualities were of inestimable value to her husband in later life. It was due to her initiative that a more comfortable type of mail cart and perambulator was introduced in the last century, which resulted in the disappearance of the old fashioned iron wheeled baby carriages; in fact from her ideas much of her late husband's business was built.

She married Sir Thomas in 1878 and they later adopted the surname of BROOKE-HITCHING by Royal licence. In her younger days she was a very beautiful woman and was marked by a particular grace of manner. This and other pleasing qualities made her a very charming personality. With her husband she was associated with the late King Edward, and was often at Court. With the passing of years she was afflicted with deafness and loss of eyesight, and she was little seen in public. Lady BROOKE-HITCHING was a connoisseur of antique furniture, which she would go to great pains to obtain. Her artistic abilities found expression in her hobby of arranging the furnishing of beautiful houses, and never was she so happy as when engaged in this pursuit. Among these houses was St. Lawrence Hall, which she arranged with particular charm and skill, and where her family were brought up. The house and equipment were later sold by Sir Thomas to the late Sir Charles CAYZER, Bart., from whom it descended to his daughter, the Countess Jellicoe, who still resides there. Numerous old residences were furnished under Lady BROOKE-HITCHING's personal supervision both at home and on the Riviera, where she was a very popular and much sought after personality and where also she has a wide circle of friends. Her husband formerly owned Corston House, Spencer-road, Ryde, where they resided, and Coombe Wood, Bonchurch. He also acquired the Steephill Castle estate at Ventnor from the executors of the late Mr. John Morgan RICHARDS, which property he held for some years. Sir Thomas died at Mentone in 1927 and was buried there. The deceased lady leaves two sons.

The funeral took place quietly at All Saints' Church on Wednesday. There was no mourning. The Rev. W.N. MARTIN (vicar) officiated. The mourners were Col. Percy BROOKE-HITCHING and Mr. Reginald BROOKE-HITCHING (sons), Mr. Gilbert BROOKE-HITCHING (grandson), Mrs. John Lucas PRICE, Nurse CURTISS, and Mr. and Mrs. KENNEDY. The remains were enclosed in an unpolished oak coffin with brass furniture, and the interment was at the Cemetery. Among a few friends at the church were Dr. K. W. I. MACKENZIE, Miss BLAKE, and the Misses F.L. and D. WEST.

Messrs. PURNELL and PURNELL were the undertakers.