

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thurs 28th July 1932

Death Notice:-

HILLS .. On the 25th of July at "Westbury," Queens-road, **Walter HILLS**, aged 84.

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MR. WALTER HILLS

We deeply regret to report the passing of Mr. **Walter HILLS** of "Westbury," Queens-road, which occurred soon after midnight on Sunday. Mr. HILLS was in his 85th year, and had been in failing health for some considerable time, although his last illness was of short duration.

He was a Lay Canon of Portsmouth Cathedral, the highest position that it is possible for a layman to attain in the Church of England, and he also took a considerable interest in the Parish Church, being one of its staunchest supporters. The straitened circumstances of the poorer clergy in the days of high prices immediately after the war claimed Mr. HILLS attention and he gave a number of addresses in the Island churches dealing with the question of higher stipends for these clergy.

A man of genial nature and cheery disposition, it is safe to say that no deserving cause ever appealed to his generosity in vain. In connection with the Parish Church Mr. HILLS was a member of the Diocesan Conference, lay representative on the East Wight Ruri-Decanal Conference, and a member of the Parochial Church Council. He was chairman of the Parochial Finance Committee, and a sidesman of the church for a great many years.

Although he had never associated with local government work Mr. HILLS, nevertheless, took a very active part in the public life of the borough. He was appointed on the Hospital Committee in 1915 and had served on it ever since. He was also a Life Governor and a very generous subscriber to the Hospital. Amongst his other activities he was treasurer of the I.W. Rose Society until last year when he retired on account of ill-health.

In his business, that of manufacturing chemist, Mr. HILLS had won considerable renown, being thrice President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain from 1896-98. On retiring from this position Mr. HILLS was presented with his portrait in oils. He was apprenticed at Messrs. GIBBS & GURNELL, in Union-street, about 70 years ago, and later to John BELL who owned a retail chemist shop in Oxford-street, London. Afterwards he gave up the retail trade and turned his attention to the manufacturing side, and during the war his firm was responsible for the production of several million gas masks for use on the Western Front. The business continued to expand and today Messrs. John BELL, HILLS & LUCAS, Ltd., of Tower Bridge-road, of which he was a director, is one of the largest wholesale druggists in England. His son Mr. Stuart HILLS is the managing director.

Upon his retirement 25 years ago Mr. HILLS came to Ryde, the town where he had first started out in the world. Mr. HILLS married Miss Louisa WOODS, daughter of James WOODS of Matlock Villa, West-street. Until a year or so ago, Mr. HILLS regularly took his holiday abroad and had visited a number of Continental countries.

He leaves a widow and one son, with whom the sympathy of the community will be extended. His eldest son died in India and another was killed in the late war. The funeral takes place today at the Parish Church at 2.30.
