

OLD RYDE LIFEBOATMAN DEAD.

Mr. **Henry SMITH**, an old mariner well-known to everyone in the town and the last surviving member of the original lifeboat crew passed away after great suffering at his residence, 3 Marine Terrace, Castle Street, on Wednesday evening, in his eighty-ninth year. Mr. SMITH, who was well esteemed by his numerous friends and acquaintances, was usually known as "the old skinner." Born in Shorwell he came to Sandown as a boy and then to Ryde, where he was employed at a fish shop, but soon took up sailing as a career, and thence forward made his living as a fisherman and yacht mariner, and worked on Sir William BROADBENT's yacht. He was a member of the original lifeboat crew of the "Selina" and afterwards the "Hans Busk," and participated in the first rescue of the Ryde lifeboat crew when they put out to the assistance of the "Volante" on September 12th, 1869. He was a staunch Conservative and in his younger days worked on behalf of Sir Richard WEBSTER.

His wife pre-deceased him some twenty-six years, and he leaves a married daughter, with whom he was staying at the time of his death.

The Funeral.

The funeral of the late Mr. Harry SMITH, the veteran lifeboatman, took place on Saturday, the service being held at Holy Trinity Church, conducted by the Rev. Noel H. STUBBS, and the interment following in the family grave at the cemetery.

The mourners were Mr. and Mrs. J. JAMES (son-in-law and daughter), Miss Doris JAMES (grand-daughter), Mr. Louis SMITH and Mr. Gordon SMITH (son and grandson), of London, Mr. Gilbert HARVEY and Miss Mabel HARVEY (nephew and niece), of Lymington, and others present were Mr. Albert REEVES, Mr. Samuel BARTON, Messrs. H. and J. HOOPER (Sandown), Mrs. E. LACEY (Lake), Miss B. CASS (Ryde), Mrs. W. POULTON and Mr. BROOKER (representing the Missions to Seamen). Many beautiful wreaths were sent as tributes of the affection in which Mr. SMITH was held.
