

DEATH OF MR. G.W. COLNUTT, F.G.S.

The death took place late on Sunday night at his residence, Hanway Lodge, Belvedere-street, Ryde, of Mr. George William COLNUTT, F.G.S., at the age 82. He had been in failing health for sometime, but was still very active for his years and on Sunday evening had gathered roses from his garden intending to send them as a gift to the District Nursing Association's home in Monkton-street. Returning to the house he obviously suffered another heart attack and on Monday morning his housekeeper found him dead. By his passing his native borough and the Island generally loses a strong personality and an authority on geology. He was the youngest and last surviving of four sons of Mr. Richard COLNUTT, a former mayor and the founder of the well-known firm of provision and wine merchants in Union-street. In 1885 he was admitted as a solicitor and for many years had practised locally and at Cowes. But it was as a geologist that he was most noted and in this sphere of activity he won a nation-wide reputation, ranking very high with the professionals. He had discovered several previously unknown fossils, some of which have been given his name. He contributed an outline of the geology of the Island to Mr. MOREY'S "Guide to the Natural History to the Isle of Wight." Mr. COLNUTT acted as local cicerone when members of the Geological Society visited the Island some years ago. His opinions and findings were always much valued. He possessed one of the finest collections of fossils in the country, and when a short while ago he offered them as a gift to the Oxford Museum their acceptance was postponed owing to war risks. Apart from wide exploration in the field of geology he was a connoisseur of a variety of antiques which long ago he directed should be given, after his death, to various museums in the country. Among his hobbies was the collection of glass walking sticks, of which he possessed quite a number, and his house and gardens bore testimony to his versatility as a collector of pictures, paintings, and other rare examples of art. His abundant knowledge of geology led him to hold strong opinions on the Island's water supply, the source of which he considered were quite adequate but inefficiently harnessed. He was a valued member of the Hampshire "Field" Club and had contributed many papers for them and acted as guide during the club's visits to the Island. He was a man of very positive opinions with strong likes and dislikes and a whimsical sense of humour. One of his favourite studies was the folklore of the Island and Hampshire and his knowledge of old Ryde was outstanding. He was a frequent contributor to the "County Press" on subjects which he discussed in an authoritative manner. He had actually promised this paper an article on the Island water supplies for this week. His only sport was bowls, a game in which he indulged until a few years ago. His wife died just over a year ago and he leaves no issue, though he is survived by his elder sister, Mrs. GIBBS, now 90 years of age.

On Thursday the remains were taken to Southampton for cremation and later the ashes were scattered over Borthwood Copse like those of his wife, a spot where they had spent many happy hours together in earlier days.
