

be remembered by those who have enjoyed his companionship in the field.

T. A. J.

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### **William Whitaker, B.A., F.R.S.**

William Whitaker, who died on the 16th January, 1925, was by birth and education a Londoner, and it was fitting therefore that he was also pre-eminently the London geologist. The vaguely defined and heterogeneous deposits of the Chiltern country attracted his attention during part of his school days at St. Albans, and helped in forming his resolution to interpret them. After graduating B.A. at London University, he joined the staff of the Geological Survey in 1857, under the Directorship of Sir Roderick Murchison, and from thence until his retirement in 1896, most of his time was devoted to the mapping and the study of the Tertiary and Quaternary deposits of the south and east of England. He followed in the footsteps of Sir Joseph Prestwich, substantiating and augmenting the conclusions drawn by him. He had a passion for collecting records of sections of wells and temporary exposures and many of these have since been published by the Geological Survey in the series of Memoirs on the water supply of the counties. He was recognized as a leading authority on questions of water, and served on numerous committees and commissions dealing with both private and public supplies. Until the last much of his time and his colossal energy were devoted to the subject.

He was the leading spirit for half a century of the London Geologists' Association, and as director of excursions was always popular and ever ready to help and guide. He served for two periods as President.

The original one-inch survey maps and the accompanying memoirs of the London Basin were largely the result of his work, and his memoirs on the "Thames Valley" and on "The Geology of London" will ever remain classics and form indispensable parts of the geologist's equipment.

His services to geology were freely recognized by the Geological Society, who awarded him the Murchison Medal in 1886, the Prestwich Medal in 1906, and the Wollaston Medal in 1923. He served as President from 1898 to 1900, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1887.

All who had the privilege of knowing him will agree with Sir Aubrey Strahan's words: "Unselfishness, transparent honesty, and kindness were the conspicuous features of his truly lovable nature."

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