

Robert Mullineux Walmsley, D.Sc., M.I.E.E. By His Hon.
Judge F. E. Bradley, M.A., LL.D.

(Read July 7, 1924.)

THE death of Robert Mullineux Walmsley, a Fellow of this Society since 1891, has removed one who, in an unassuming way, has done good work for a great number of years in assisting in the technical education of the British working-man.

Whilst still a clerk in the office at Liverpool of his uncle, a timber merchant, Walmsley attained, in 1882, by private study, the degree of B.Sc. with honours, as an external student of the University of London. He proceeded to the D.Sc. degree in 1886, specialising more particularly in electricity.

He then adopted teaching as a profession, at first as an assistant to the late John Perry, the Professor of Engineering at the City Guild classes in Lenard Street, London; and next as Principal of the Sind Arts College, Bombay, an appointment he resigned on the ground of ill-health.

Returning to England Dr Walmsley became, in 1888, Senior Mathematical Lecturer and Demonstrator at the City Guilds Central Institute, South Kensington. In 1890 he was appointed the first Professor of Electrical Engineering at the Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh, and in 1896 was selected as the first, and, up to the time of his death, the only Principal of the Northampton Polytechnic Institute, Clerkenwell, London—a technical college designed chiefly for working-men students, and now attached to the University of London.

Dr Walmsley's connection with that University has been long and intimate. It is now more than twenty years since he was elected by Convocation as one of their representatives on the Senate, and he was from time to time regularly re-elected to that office. He was, more recently, elected Chairman of Convocation, and presided on the 13th May 1924 over the ordinary general meeting of Convocation held at the University in South Kensington, where 174 members of Convocation attended.

Dr Walmsley also held some important teaching posts in the University, in which he was, *inter alia*, a recognised teacher in (1) electrical engineering, and (2) mathematics, including therein astronomy and navigation.

From 1908 to 1922 he served as Chairman of the Board to promote the extension of University teaching.

Dr Walmsley had a high reputation as a teacher and was greatly esteemed by his colleagues; but he did not publish any serious contribution to the science of his subject. In private life he was a very quiet and reserved man, rather cautious in making any advances of friendship. He died on the 14th June 1924, of injuries received by being struck down, the previous day, by a motor-car, near his home in Camden Town, London. He leaves a widow and two sons and two daughters.