

Obituary.

HENRY ELLIS, F.R.A.S.—Henry Ellis was born on April 14th, 1858, the eldest son of Edward Ellis who died in 1865, and grandson of William Ellis, underwriter, of the Indemnity Mutual Marine Assurance Company. He had a profound admiration for his grandfather who wrote on Social Science and founded schools in London in which good citizenship was specially taught. One survives at Gospel Oak.

When his father died, his mother, having five young children, sent the eldest boy to boarding-school at Manchester. He afterwards went to Mr. Munro's at Elstree.

At the age of 16 he started work at the Indemnity, at his grandfather's wish. His bent, however, was scientific. He spent some of his scanty pocket-money on "Nature," studying by himself. He had a desire to go into the Indian Forest Service, which in after years he encouraged his own son to do.

He was a Captain in the Bloomsbury Rifles, a Volunteer corps, at the time of his marriage, in 1883, to Margaret, second daughter of Prof. Henry Morley.

In 1886 he moved from Hampstead to Potter's Bar. There he had scope to develop his hobbies—photography, entomology, and astronomy. He found an astronomical friend in Dr. R. J. Ryle, then living at Hadley, through whom he joined the British Astronomical Association in 1892, of which he became Treasurer in 1913.

He first set up a small observatory, then a bigger one, with a Grubb reflector telescope, and applied his photography to the stars.

He joined the Touring Club de France, and went cycling there several times, once visiting the underground caverns described by Martel. He went to see the solar eclipse of 1900 at Algiers.

He was fond of music, playing the violoncello, and had a string quartet at home with his three daughters. With his sons he played cricket; for some time he was captain of a local cricket team.

He went to Russia, S. Africa and Spain at various times to start agencies for the Indemnity, from which he retired in 1909.

In 1913 he built a house on the hilltop at Lyme Regis, where he removed his observatory. The war, however, interfered with observation. It took from him his two sons in the R.N. Division, Lieut. Edward V. Ellis, M.C., killed in France in 1917, and Commander Bernard Henry Ellis, D.S.M., D.S.O., died in 1918; also a son-in-law, Capt. R. Brewitt-Taylor, M.C. in the R.A.M.C.—griefs which left their mark.

While Mayor of Lyme Regis for 3 years, 1922, -23 and -24, he carried out a scheme for electric lighting, and co-operated in all good works in the town.

He recovered from illness at the end of 1926 sufficiently to be able to go with a daughter to see the Eclipse of the Sun at Richmond, Yorks., this spring, and enjoyed another summer, with grandchildren about him, before he died on Sept. 26th, 1927, from a clot on the brain. A Lyme friend writes:—"We owe him a debt of gratitude for the splendid work he did in this place for us all, as well as in the exercise of his many scientific interests. He was so many-sided that there are few of us who will not miss his shrewd and kindly counsel."