

HENRY JOHNSON, F.G.S.,

BORN 1823; DIED 1885.

Mr. Henry Johnson, of Trindle Road, Dudley, civil and mining engineer, well known in the Midland Counties, and beyond, for his skill, energy, and successful appliance of knowledge and experience, has succumbed to a long infliction of sciatic rheumatism and ultimate prostration. Born in 1823, he was in his 63rd year when he died early in July last. Articled to a surveyor, he soon became successful in land and mining surveying, in railway work, and collieries. The great Sandwell Colliery, in particular, was re-established and extended by his labour and influence. The Watling-Street Colliery near Wilnecote, and the Peel Colliery, near Tamworth, with its extensive clay works, were won and established by him. He was also actively and successfully engaged with the South Staffordshire Mines' Drainage Scheme, and in the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire Mining Institute. He contributed some good and useful papers to Societies with which he was connected,—as, for instance, that "On the Working of Thick Coal," to the Midland Institute, Birmingham, and "On the Geological Features of the South Staffordshire Coalfield," to the Iron and Steel Institute at Dudley, treating of the practical development of the Coal-field and improved working of the Mines. His services on Commissions, Trials, etc., connected with mining affairs, were highly valued and much-sought-after. He was ever ready to help his professional brethren, especially the younger engineers, with his counsel and practical aid. His talents as a draughtsman and in penmanship were appreciated from an early date. In a geological point of view Mr. Johnson had a ready and firm grasp on the bearings of geology on mining; and he particularly utilized his many opportunities, and gratified his natural taste, by collecting and preserving almost innumerable good specimens of fossils and minerals. The former he cherished with personal care and skilful manipulation, exhibiting their parts and characters clearly and with judgment, so that the palæontologist, visiting his wonderfully rich collection, not only saw specimens better than he had seen before, but always found a judicious selection of doubtful or unknown forms, of both animal and vegetable remains, which the energetic collector had saved and separated for examination by the specialist. As Mr. Johnson cheerfully exhibited whatever his visitors wished to see, so he gratefully accepted such information about his treasures as they were able to give. Not only his minerals and fossils, but his mining records and curiosities, are valuable memorials of his good taste, common sense, and acumen. He has left three sons and two daughters; and his long and fatal malady deprived him of the power of making such a provision for them as once he had a right to hope for.—T.R.J.

PROFESSOR H. MILNE-EDWARDS.—It is with profound regret we have to record the death of one of the most eminent Naturalists of the present century, one too, who has witnessed its eventful history from its commencement. Born on 23rd October, 1800, he passed away in his 85th year, on the 29th July, 1885. Although resident in Paris, he was by origin an Englishman. We hope to give a suitable notice of Prof. Milne-Edwards in our next Number.