In Memoriam.

WILLIAM CASH.

(1843—1914.)

WILLIAM CASH was born in Leeds in April 1843. He migrated to Halifax as a boy and entered the service of the Halifax and Huddersfield Union Bank, becoming eventually a manager. He took much interest in public life, and in 1889 was Chairman of the Halifax School Board at the time that his friend, J. W. Davis, was Mayor of the town, so that the rising Halifax was pretty fully penetrated with modern ideas of the proper position of science in the community. About 1893, Mr. Cash severed his connection with the bank and established himself in business as an accountant. When he retired from that profession, in somewhat straitened circumstances, shortly before his death, a Civil List pension was conferred upon and grants were made to him by the Murdoch Trustees, which were supplemented by an income from the scientific work upon which he was engaged. He died at 26 Mayfield Terrace South, Halifax, on December 16th, 1914.

William Cash rendered inestimable service to the Halifax Scientific Society, of which he was one of the founders, and twice its president; and he was also president of the Halifax Geological Field Club. He was elected as a Fellow of the Geological Society of London in 1876, and became a member of the Yorkshire Geological Society in the same year, and later was elected by the Council as a life member. To the Society he gave many hours of work, acting at one time as treasurer, and as joint editor with the Rev. W. Lower Carter of the Society's publications from 1893, when he succeeded his friend, Mr. Davis, till 1905.

The place he filled in the scientific world of Yorkshire can perhaps be best conveyed if I sound a rather intimate and personal note.

Little more than a year after my arrival in the North of England, I attended the meeting of the British Association at Manchester in August, 1887—a most notable gathering alike in the record attendance of members, in the number and eminence of the foreign guests, and in the importance of the papers that were communicated and discussed. Yorkshire was represented, among others, by a little circle including J. W. Davis, Thomas Hick, C. P. Hobkirk and William Cash; and

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the many hours that I spent in their society impressed me very deeply with the importance of the amateur work in science in Yorkshire and the generous spirit of comradeship that animated them all. They were naturalists of the best type, each a specialist in some one branch, but none restricted to a single subject ; men of wide interests and extensive reading. Among them all William Cash seemed to me, without disparagement of the others, to possess the widest outlook, and when I reflect upon the nearly thirty years during which our intimacy lasted, and note how his interests were maintained and even enlarged, I feel that Cash was as deeply imbued with the true spirit of a naturalist as any man I have met.

It is difficult to say what were his primary interests—perhaps the study of the Carboniferous rocks and Coal Measure plants, a field of work in which he had distinguished himself by discovery of new types and by careful description of his finds ; but it is evident from the variety of his publications that he was by no means restricted to Palæobotany and that Invertebrate Zoology had a large place in his activities, while either singly or in collaboration with Hick, who became assistant to Williamson in the Botanical Department of the Owens College, he wrote upon the structure and affinities of new types of Carboniferous plants, for the most part represented by sections by James Spencer, another notable Halifax worthy. Of these sections he accumulated a magnificent collection. With characteristic generosity he placed his treasures freely at the disposal of other experts when he thought that they could make better use of them than he could himself. In this way many of Cash's most important specimens came to be described by Professor W. C. Williamson, and some went to the great Continental palæobotanists with whom Cash corresponded. It is gratifying to know that the Cash Collection of Fossil Plants, almost in its entirety, is lodged in the Manchester Museum, along with a great deal of Williamson's material.

In the course of his scientific work he found the need for a knowledge of foreign languages, and he became an adept in French, and acquired a good working knowledge of German, both of which he used to my advantage in the last year of his life. His proficiency in these languages enabled him to maintain a correspondence with several eminent palæobotanists, particularly Professor Zeiller and the Graf zu Solms-Laubach.

At our first meeting I was as much attracted by the charm of Cash's personality as by his scientific sympathies. I was a young man just beginning to make my way in the world, and the help I derived from his encouragement is not easy to appraise. He sent me presents of books, many of which have been tools in constant use ever since. He lent me others, and in a multitude of ways assisted me—and it is a very gratifying recollection that during the last year of his life and down to the very day of his death, he found his principal occupation in work upon certain features of coal-seams in which we were jointly engaged.

Cash's amiable and sympathetic nature was for ever seeking some new object upon which to bestow its favours, and great numbers of young naturalists, some of whom have since attained distinction, owed their start in science, and not a few even their advancement in life, to his generosity and helpfulness. One of the most notable of these, I believe, was Walter Percy Sladen. Cash helped him very greatly and was his chief inspiration, and had Sladen lived it would assuredly have made a great difference to Cash's later years.

He devoted a great deal of his time to popular lecturing. He took great care in the preparation of his matter, and many new recruits were added to the numerous army of Yorkshire naturalists by his stimulating teaching; nor was he satisfied with the mere germination of the seed. He watched over the later growth, and guarded it against the chills that might arrest or prevent its full development.

PERCY F. KENDALL.

[A list of William Cash's papers and monographs appeared in *The Naturalist* for January, 1915. The Council are indebted to the Editors and Publishers of *The Naturalist* for the use of the accompanying portrait].