Obituary.

FRANCIS WILLIAM PASSMORE.

By the death of Dr. F. W. Passmore, F.I.C., in November last, at the age of 54, the chemical profession lost one of its most valued practitioners.

For nearly thirty years Dr. Passmore had been engaged in consulting practice in London, but, precluded as he was by the confidential nature of his work from publishing scientific papers, his name was perhaps less well known to the general body of chemists than his talents would otherwise have ensured. Among those with whom he came into contact, no one stood higher than he in professional esteem and affectionate regard.

His tastes lay principally in the direction of organic chemistry, and his training—which culminated in a period of study under Emil Fischer at Würzburg—had afforded ample scope for their development. As a consultant, he followed his bent in applying a wide and deep knowledge of that branch of the science to chemical industry, and he met with success as technical director in various organic chemical manufactures. He was too sound a chemist, however, and had too broad an outlook, for his activities to be restricted even to the wide domain of organic chemistry, and he was engaged from time to time in several other branches of chemical and technical work.

He was chiefly distinguished as a leading member of that small group of scientific men who are habitually engaged as witnesses in patent litigation and as advisers to inventors and others on patent questions generally. He was richly endowed with the qualities required for this work—a profound knowledge and love of his subject, insight, swiftness of comprehension, clearness of exposition, accuracy in experimental work, a calm and level judgment, and, above all, that critical faculty which debars the thinker from accepting and insisting upon his own view, however attractive, unless it has first passed the test of his own closest scrutiny. He possessed in a high degree the capacity for taking simple, clear-cut views, and for explaining and clarifying the most recondite of organic reactions and processes—always with a sense of what really mattered for the purpose in hand. He had no trace of that tendency, not unknown among chemists and other men of scientific education, of deviating from the path of relevancy into the bog of scientific disquisition, which is so disconcerting to the legal mind seeking for guidance on the points at issue.

A bare record of his professional achievements, read with knowledge of all that they involved, would amply establish what has been said above. Some indication of his work is given in a sympathetic obituary notice, by Mr. E. T. Brewis, in the *Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry* of 30th November last (page 441 R). But in endeavouring to write, with knowledge born of nearly 25 years' close friendship, an intimate appreciation of the man and his work, one recalls with gratitude the thought, so finely expressed by Emerson, of how much the good name and quality of a man of high character transcend a mere catalogue

of his achievements. "Something resided in the man which begot an expectation that outran all his performance." No one who was associated with Passmore could fail to feel the weight of his influence, and it was an influence for good. To his intimates, he was distinguished by strength and simplicity of character—the simplicity of one whose every action was so unerringly and inevitably determined by the laws of right and reason, that his motives were at all times clear and estimable and his actions transparently honourable.

In the Courts—whether in the Chancery Division, the Court of Appeal, or the House of Lords—Passmore's reputation stood second to none for probity, and his evidence was always received with the greatest respect.

His genial, kindly personality and his loyal friendship are deeply missed by a wide circle of friends.

HORATIO BALLANTYNE.

EDWIN WILLIAM TAYLOR JONES.

E. W. T. JONES, F.I.C., who died on February 19th at the age of nearly seventy-six, was an original member of the Society of Public Analysts, of which he had been twice Vice-President, and it was only in deference to his own wish, expressed on several occasions, that he was never nominated by the Council for the Presidency. He twice served on the Council of the Institute of Chemistry.

At the time of his death he had been for nearly forty-nine years Public Analyst for the Borough of Wolverhampton, and for the County of Stafford, and he was also Public Analyst for Kidderminster, Walsall, Newcastle-under-Lyme, and Stoke-on-Trent. He was also Official Analyst for the County of Stafford and some of the foregoing boroughs under the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act.

He was the son of the late Edward Jones, of Russell's Hall, Dudley, and was educated at a private school, from which he went for a time into chemical works at Wolverhampton, afterwards going to London for a systematic course of training at the Royal College of Chemistry, in the time of the late Dr. A. W. Hofmann. At the conclusion of his course there he passed the usual final examinations of the College, and, at the same time, took the silver medal for organic chemistry and the bronze medal for inorganic chemistry awarded by the Science and Art Department of South Kensington.

In 1871, at twenty-five years of age, he began practice as an analytical chemist in Wolverhampton in the laboratory which he occupied up to the time of his death. On the passing of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act he was appointed under its provisions to the official positions which have been already referred to.

Jones was an earnest member of the band of early pioneers in food analysis, and had the credit of being the first public analyst to certify officially under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act the then prevalent adulteration of lard with cottonseed oil.

He contributed many papers to the Proceedings of our Society, as well as taking, for many years, an active part in the discussions which arose at its meetings.

Among his papers published in the *ANALYST* were the following:—"Butter Fat, Its Analysis and Composition"—two papers—(Vol. II., pp. 19 and 37); "Influence of Age on the Specific Gravity of Butter Fat and the Percentage of Soluble and Insoluble Acids" (Vol. IV., p. 39); "The Influence of Age on the Composition of Butter Fat" (Vol. IV., p. 93); "Starch in Ground Ginger" (Vol. XI., p. 75); "The Examination of Wort" and "The Estimation of Starch" (Vol. XII., p. 163); "The Specific Gravity of Fat at 100° F. when Clear and when Clouded with Crystals" (Vol. XIII., p. 201); "The Adulteration of Lard with Cottonseed Oil" (Vol. XIII., p. 170); "Notes on Lactose" (Vol. XIV., p. 81); "The Turbidity of Oils and Fats in Glacial Acetic Acid" (Vol. XIX., p. 151); "Treacle or Golden Syrup" (Vol. XXV., p. 87); and "The Detection and Determination of Maize in Wheaten Flour" (Vol. XXV., p. 317).

Abstracts of papers in other Journals on "Coconut Oil in Margarine," "The Detection of Arsenic in Beer" and "The Colorimetric Estimation of Formaldehyde in Milk" have also appeared in the *ANALYST*.

He left a widow, one daughter and two sons—one of whom, Mr. E. V. Jones, has been for many years associated with him in his professional work.

BERNARD DYER.