

March DEATH OF 1934

MR. D. T. W. HAMMOND.

A WELL-KNOWN CHALFORD RESIDENT.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Daniel Thomas William Hammond, of Abnash, Chalford Hill, which occurred at his residence early on Sunday morning last. Mr. Hammond, who had been associated with this district all his life, was born at Eastcombe nearly 70 years ago, being the only son of the late Mr. Thomas Hammond, a vocalist and instrumentalist of some repute in his generation.

Mr. Daniel Hammond was justly esteemed by all who knew him as a type of Christian gentleman whose happiness was service to others. Unassuming and unobtrusive in manner, he performed his conception of duty as a sacred office, and conducted his private and public life in such manner that to those who had known him long, his name was synonymous with integrity and honour.

As a young man he entered into active work in the Eastcombe Baptist Church and the Sunday School, and gave a life of ceaseless effort to the furtherance of the cause so near to his heart. As a member of the Church choir he assisted to maintain the high standard of musical performance for which that church was noted a generation ago. In his early days also, he was a competent instrumentalist, and was identified with many local string orchestras and Chalford Brass Band.

In January, 1888, he married Mary, the daughter of the late Mr. James Jones, of Christchurch, near Coleford, and took up residence at Bussage, from whence in 1901 he moved to Chalford Hill. From this time he devoted much of his labour to the improvement of this and adjacent properties, and was ever employing his versatile hands in the performance of some addition or improvement, calculated to assist those whose duties lay in and about the homes.

As a skilled and indefatigable horticulturist, his garden was often a tribute to his effort and forethought, and his assistance and advice to others, so unobtrusively and willingly given, have repeatedly earned the gratitude of those who benefitted.

In politics Mr. Hammond was an ardent Liberal, and in brighter days served on the General Council and local committees, and did much solid and useful work behind the scenes, so vital to any successful organisation.

In maturer days he was elected a Deacon and Trustee of Eastcombe Baptist Church, and always performed his duty as a serious mission. His colleagues found him a staunch supporter, one whose conscience could tolerate nothing poor or shoddy, and whose attention to all details of business, however obscure, was as thorough as though they were of prime importance.

In later years the distance to Eastcombe became too great for regular journeys, and Mr. Hammond became associated with Chalford Tabernacle, and when health permitted was always to be found in his place.

The failure of his wife's health and subsequent death last year, was a blow from which he never recovered, so happy and mutually helpful had their forty-five years of married life been. Though appearing to rally for a while, the weakness left by a severe illness eighteen months ago, became increasingly apparent, and from October last his health was such that he expressed the fear that he would not see his seventieth birthday.

For the last six weeks he was compelled to lay up, a hard lot for one whose life had contained so much outdoor activity; but his increasing weakness was borne with quiet fortitude and consideration for others, so characteristic of him. He was happily in the care of his elder daughter, Nurse Hammond, who has had a wide experience in English and Tropical hospitals, and whose skill and tireless devotion was to him a great consolation. After a brave fight, he felt himself descending into the Valley, but his amazing vitality probably acquired from lifelong abstemious habits, continually rallied him, and though in great suffering, often exhorted his children about him and eased their period of strain to the utmost of his ability.

In the early hours of Sunday last, there were signs which gave greater anxiety, and he passed peacefully away between six and seven o'clock, leaving two daughters and one son to mourn his loss.

The funeral takes place to-morrow, Saturday, at Chalford Tabernacle, the cortege leaving the house at 2-30.