

Ralph Richardson, W.S.

MR RALPH RICHARDSON, who died on June 26, 1933, at the advanced age of eighty-seven, was one of the oldest Fellows of the Society. A son of the late Mr James Richardson, F.R.S.E., he was elected a Fellow in 1875, and during his long lifetime continued to interest himself in various subjects of scientific importance. He was one of the founders of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in 1884, and for the first ten years an Hon. Secretary, and a Vice-President from 1924. He was also for several years Hon. Secretary of the Edinburgh Geological Society and a Fellow of the Scottish Society of Antiquaries.

He was a man of wealth and leisure in his later years, and since 1883 had held the office of H.M. Commissary Clerk, which did not prevent him from devoting much time to travel and observation of things of interest abroad and at home and to the welfare of the community in Edinburgh.

Between 1889 and 1914 he communicated numerous papers to the *Scot. Geogr. Mag.*, and previously also to the *Trans. Edin. Geol. Soc.* By profession a Writer to the Signet, his legal help and advice was freely given and much valued, both while he acted as Hon. Secretary to these societies and in after years. One of his first papers, written in 1874, was on "Peat as a Substitute for Coal," at that time in every sense a burning question while the coal famine was at its height after the Franco-German War. On January 18, 1889, Edinburgh was slightly shaken by an earth tremor that was felt over the whole district. Mr Richardson took much pains to collect all the evidence from persons affected, and published an account of all their experiences in the *Scot. Geogr. Mag.* for 1889, which is of real scientific value.

He married a daughter of the late Dr Andrew Fleming of the Indian Medical Service by whom he is survived.

H. M. C.