

## Biographical Notice

OF THE

LATE MR. JAMES LEWIS THOMAS, F.S.A., F.R.G.S.,  
Hon. A.R.I.B.A., etc.

Mr. JAMES LEWIS THOMAS, F.S.A., late Chief Surveyor to the War Office, who died suddenly on October 4th, 1904, was born in Brecon, South Wales, of Welsh parents, in the year 1825, and was educated at King's College, London. He studied architecture under Sir Charles Barry at the building of the Houses of Parliament, and was appointed to the Civil Department of the Royal Engineers after a competitive examination, being stationed at the Tower of London, where he designed and superintended the building of the officers' quarters and made many restorations of the towers of the ancient walls. He subsequently spent six years in the West Indies, and on his return during the Crimean War he received a special appointment in the War Office as Deputy Surveyor, being the first and last holder of that office, which position he held for twenty-seven years with much success. He was concerned in laying out the encampment at Aldershot, and was the architect of the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley, the Royal Herbert Hospital at Woolwich, and the Convalescent Home at Bournemouth, erected to the memory of the late Lord Herbert of Lea. In 1882 he succeeded to the office of Chief Surveyor, which he held until his retirement in 1890, under the age clause, when he was presented with a silver bowl and an illuminated address at a farewell dinner given by his colleagues in the War Office. In consideration of his long and distinguished services, the Honorary Associateship of the Royal Institute of British Architects was conferred upon him. He was a member of the Royal Archaeological Institute since 1879. Mr. Lewis Thomas was Vice-Treasurer of the most Hon. and Loyal Society of Ancient Britons, and was an active member of the Committee of the Welsh Girls' Schools at Ashford, Middlesex; he was a distinguished Freemason, and was the last surviving brother of the late eminent Breconshire sculptor, Mr. J. Evan Thomas, F.S.A., J.P., D.L., High Sheriff of the county of Brecknock in 1868. He married in 1851, Eliza Anne, the daughter and co-heiress of the late the Hon. Henry Cecil Hodge, Barrister-at-Law, and leaves four sons.

At a Meeting of the Council of the Institute, held November 24th, 1904, on the motion of Sir HENRY HOWORTH, *President*, seconded by Mr. E. W. BRABROOK, C.B., *Vice-President*, it was resolved that the condolence of the Council should be offered to Major Harley Thomas, F.S.A., and his family on the demise of his father, Mr. James Lewis Thomas, F.S.A., F.R.G.S., for many years a distinguished Member of the Institute.

The Institute has also suffered a further loss in the death of Mr. T. Blashill, who was elected a member of the Council at the Annual Meeting at Bristol.