

Richard Edmund Valentine Fifield

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NEWPORT

Death of Mr. R. E. V. Fifield.- A familiar figure as been removed by the death on Friday week of Mr. Richard Edmund Valentine Fifield, of 20 Castle-road. A native of Surrey, Mr. Fifield had for nearly 50 years been actively connected with the colportage¹ work and for the last 10 years had been colporteur for the Island branch of the Colportage Association, having previously discharged similar duties in the Guildford and Woking districts. He was a valued local preacher on the Methodist Plan and was much esteemed and respected for his conscientious Christian work. He had not been in good health since last December, but his death came very suddenly following an apoplectic stroke. He leaves a widow, with whom much sympathy is felt. The funeral was on Tuesday, the first part of the service being held at the Baptist Church and the interment in Carisbrooke Cemetery. The Rev. E. G. Keed (Baptist minister), and the Rev. W. H. Mackinnon (vicar of St. John's Church) took part in the service and deceased's favourite hymns "Jesu, Lover of my soul" and "Abide with me" were sung by the large congregation, in which were representatives of the Colportage Association, including the secretary (Mr. G. B. Willmott), and also of practically all the denominations of the town. The mourners were Mrs. Fifield (widow), Miss Alice Fifield (sister), and Mr. W. M. Bailey (brother-in-law). The large number of floral tributes included those from the I.W. Colportage Association, the Baptist Church, and the local Good Templars, of which society was almost a lifelong member. Messrs. H. and F. Damp made the arrangements.

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¹-**Colportage** is the distribution of publications, books, and religious tracts by carriers called "colporteurs" or "colporters". (Wikipedia)