

Eustace Ediss

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DEATH AT NEWPORT OF MR. EUSTACE EDISS

With great regret we record the death of Mr. Eustace Ediss, only son of Mr. W.K. Ediss, the esteemed bandmaster of Newport National-schools, who passed very peacefully away at his old home in Newport on Saturday afternoon last, at the age of 27. Sprung from an artistic family, the deceased gave early evidence of his possession of gifts which bade fair to win for him high distinction as an artist. He began his art career in Newport Art Class, where he obtained his full teacher's certificate. He then became art pupil-teacher in the Hartley Institution, Southampton, where he won his art master's full certificate, in addition to many certificates in the higher branches of art. He possessed high certificates also in building constructions, architecture, machine construction and steam. Last year he, with his sister, was received into the Royal College of Art, London, and his career was being watched with pleasure by his distinguished relative, the late Sir Walter Besant, and by artist friends of eminent Academy standing. As an artist he took special delight in painting "wave pictures." Some of his studies being masterpieces of artistic treatment. Before entering the Royal College of Art he was appointed master of design in the Southampton School for Home Arts and Industries, and it may be mentioned in passing that specimens in beaten copper from that school were shown at the last artisan exhibition in Newport. He was art master to the Bishop's Waltham Institute, to the Isle of Wight Pupil-Teachers' Centre, and to the South-Western Company's Institute, Eastleigh. The last two appointments he retained, with the help of his talented sisters, until his death.

In all the art centres in which he was so well known the news of his death has occasioned the deepest sorrow, and while the highest tributes have been paid to his professional attainments, the warmest testimony has been borne to the excellencies which adorned his personal character. In a letter received from Mr. T.G. Rooper, H.M. inspector, who knew Mr. Eustace Ediss well, he says: "It fills me with sad and solemn feelings to think of a life which was so full of promise so suddenly cut short. All that he has done has been well done, and he leaves behind him the fairest memory." Mr. G.A. Purkess, secretary of the Institute at Eastleigh, writes that they all feel most deeply the loss of one whom all held in the highest esteem. In connection with this Institute a pathetic incident may be noted. On the very day that Mr. Eustace Ediss died a letter was received from the secretary of the Eastleigh Institute announcing the "most satisfactory" results in an examination for which the students had been prepared by the deceased. Of 12 candidates who entered 11 passed, seven in the first class and four in the second. The news came too late to be communicated to him whom it so closely concerned, but the students will have no difficulty in imagining the gentle smile with which the intelligence of their success would have been received by their beloved teacher had it come a few hours earlier.

The deceased was well known in Island football circles and some years ago figured prominently on the right wing for the Newport Club. Our readers, we are sure, will join with us in very deeply deploring the early death of this brilliant young Islander and in offering an expression of sincerest sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. Ediss and the members of the sorrowing family.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, the first part of the Burial Office being performed at St. Thomas's Church, where the body was met by the Rev. Miles Atkinson, the Rev. Dr. Lessey, the Churchwardens (Messrs. C.F. Fox and H. Tullidge), and the surpliced choir. The deceased, it may be mentioned, was an old St. Thomas's choir-boy, and his father has been a leading member of the choir for some 30 years. The opening sentences and the prayers were read by the Rev. Miles Atkinson, and the lesson was read by the Rev. Dr. Lessey. The hymn "On the Resurrection morning" and "Fight the good fight with all thy might" were sung. As the congregation were assembling the organist (Mr. Harry Cushing, A.R.C.O.) played "O rest in the Lord" and as the cortège left the church Chopin's beautiful "Marche funèbre" was played. The chief mourners were the deceased father and mother

(Mr. and Mrs. W.I. Ediss), four sisters, Mr. J.H. Black, Mr. J.H.J. Greenfield, and Mr. J. Dunning (assistant secretary of the South-Western Institute, Eastleigh, representing the teachers, committee, and members of the Institute).

Amongst those also present at the church were the Rev. A.G. Fryer (hon. Secretary and treasurer) and Miss Hinton, representing the Isle of Wight Pupil Teachers' Association, and a number of the teachers of the National-schools, which were closed on the mournful occasion; also Mrs. H. Edmund Sharpe, Mrs. Seymour, Miss Pittis, the Misses Lavender, Mrs. E.O. White, Mrs. G.H. Yelf, Mr. and Mrs. G. Cleach, Mr. and Mrs. Moon (Cowes), Mr. T.F. Cooper, Miss Morris, Mrs. and the Misses C.T. Allen, Mr. C. Alderslade, Mr. Supa. Ayres, Mr. W.H. Drover (Southampton) and Mr. J.H. Schofield (Brighstone) and others. The Rev. Miles Atkinson officiated at the graveside, where a large number of sympathetic friends were assembled. The grave was lined with ivy and laurel and on the polished elm coffin was the inscription: "Eustace Ediss, died June 29th, aged 27 years". There was a large number of beautiful floral tokens - crosses, wreaths, anchors, harps, and other emblematic arrangements of flowers - amongst those sending these lovely tributes being:-

"Dear old Mater and Pater," the Misses Ediss, Fleur-de-lis, Mr. J. Black, Southampton art students and friends (Hartley), staff and students of the Isle of Wight Pupil-Teachers' centre, committee of the South-Western Company's Institute (Eastleigh), students at Eastleigh, Newport National School boys, teachers of boys' Newport National-school, teachers and children of the Newport Infants' school, superintendents and teachers of St. Thomas's Sunday-schools, Mr. and Mrs. Moon (Cowes), Mr. and Mrs. Percy (London), Mr. and Mrs. Greenfield, Mr. and Mrs. Long, Mr. and Mrs. Schofield (Brighstone), Mrs. Westmore and Miss Hallett, Mrs. Seymour (Carisbrooke), Mr. and Mrs. Yelf, Mr. and Mrs. White, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis and family (Cowes), Mr. and Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Humber, and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley.

In the course of his sermon at St. Thomas's Church on Sunday evening the Rural Dean of West Wight, Rev. Clement Smith, M.V.O. made touching reference to the cutting off of a young life so full of promise in the death of a worthy son of a worthy sire - the son of a father to whom many, many men of Newport and elsewhere looked up with respect and gratitude for the Christian training which they had received at his hands.

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