

JAMES EDWARD HENRY GORDON, B.A., son of the late Dr. James Alexander Gordon, F.R.S., Physician to the London Hospital, was born at Burford, Dorking, on the 26th of June, 1852. He was educated at a private school at Brighton and subsequently at Eton, which he left a year before the usual time in order to study physics at King's College, London, under Professor W. Grylls Adams, F.R.S. While there he invented and brought out an electrical anemometer. After taking his degree in mathematics at Cambridge he studied for a time in the physical laboratory there, under the late Professor Clerk Maxwell. He then set up a laboratory at Dorking, where he carried out a series of experiments on the electro-magnetic rotation of polarized light and on the specific inductive capacity of dielectrics, the results of which were embodied in Papers¹ presented to the Royal Society.

In 1878 Mr. Gordon accepted the post of Assistant Secretary to the British Association, which he held for two years. In 1879 he delivered at the Royal Institution a series of four lectures on "Electrostatic Induction," subsequently published in book form, and in the following year he brought out "A Physical Treatise on Electricity and Magnetism" which has gone through two editions in England, one in America and one in France, the introduction to the French translation being written by Professor Cornu of the École Polytechnique. Foreseeing the practical development of electricity, he produced, as the outcome of experiments, a new form of incandescent lamp, which, however, was superseded by the Edison-Swan lamp. After acting as a British delegate at the Paris Exhibition of 1881, he designed and constructed a dynamo—then the largest in existence—which was exhibited in the following year at the Greenwich works of the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company. Towards the end of 1883 he accepted the post of Manager of the Electric Lighting Department of that Company. In this capacity he designed and carried out for the Great Western Railway Company the electric lighting of Paddington Station, an installation of both arc- and incandescent-lamps, with engines of nearly 2,000 HP. This plant was completed in April, 1886, and has been working satisfactorily since. In 1884 he brought out a "Practical Treatise on Electric Lighting."

The Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company having

¹ Phil. Trans. Royal Society, 1877, p. 1; and 1879, p. 417.

decided to close its electric light department, Mr. Gordon took a prominent part in 1887 in the formation of the Whitehall Electric Supply Company, which in the following year was merged in the Metropolitan Electric Supply Company, with Mr. Gordon as Engineer. He designed and carried out the whole of this Company's central-stations, including those at Whitehall, Rathbone Place, and South Street, Manchester Square. Finding in 1889 that his consulting business was rapidly increasing, he ceased to be a salaried officer of the Metropolitan Electric Supply Company, and in the following year formed with Mr. W. J. Rivington, until then managing director of the publishing firm of Sampson Low, Marston, Searle and Rivington, a company registered under the style of J. E. H. Gordon and Company, with offices in Pall Mall. There he carried on the business of a consulting engineer, to which he added contracts for central-stations and other works. Among the central-stations erected by the firm may be mentioned those for the lighting of the towns of Carlow, Larne and Bray in Ireland, and that for the supply of current to the Crystal Palace and Sydenham.

Mr. Gordon's promising career was cut short by a sad accident on the 3rd of February, 1893. He was riding in the neighbourhood of Croydon when the horse bolted, and in attempting to turn too sharply both animal and rider fell on an asphalt pavement, Mr. Gordon sustaining a fracture of the skull which resulted in death shortly afterwards. Though only forty years of age he was well known in the scientific world by his original work, by his active theoretical and practical pursuit of electrical subjects and by his books above referred to. Mr. Gordon was elected a Member of the Institution on the 1st of April, 1890.

WILLIAM CHARLES EASTON GRIFFITH, eldest son of the Rev. C. H. Griffith, Rector of Strathfield Turgiss, Winchfield, Hants, was born on the 24th of June, 1854. He commenced his engineering career in 1870, when he was articled for a period of five years to the firm of Easton, Amos and Anderson, in whose shops and drawing-office he displayed considerable mechanical ability which stood him in good stead subsequently. Shortly after his apprenticeship he was sent as Resident Engineer in charge of the erection of pumping-machinery in the Whittlesea Mere district of Cambridgeshire. At several stations the old windmill and scoop-wheel were being replaced by the steam-