

Our Portrait Gallery—No. 7.

WE regret that the portrait accompanying this number is not so good as we should wish, but as it is taken from the only available photo we must needs be content. Considering the great number of Old School of Mines' men who have passed through Mr. Smith's hands we are sure the portrait, even though imperfect, will be thoroughly welcome.

The late Mr. Richard Smith was born in 1830 in London, and was one of those who, under the lead of Sir Henry de la Bèche, took part in the formation of the Royal School of Mines in 1851.

He began his career as an assayer and metallurgist in 1845 at the Museum of Economic Geology in Craigs-court, Charing Cross. Here he was assistant to the late Mr. R. Phillips, F.R.S., then chemist to the establishment.

On the transfer of the Museum to Jermyn St. and the establishment of the Royal School of Mines, Mr. Smith was appointed assistant to the late Dr. Percy, F.R.S., and instructor in the metallurgical laboratory.

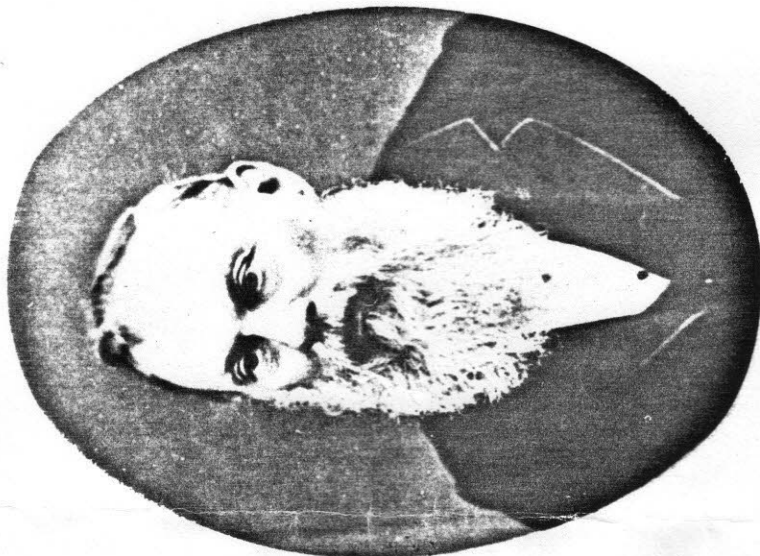
His success as an instructor in assaying is abundantly evidenced by the number of important positions held by his students in every part of the globe, where mining and metallurgy are carried on; while as regards his original investigations, it is only necessary to refer to Dr. Percy's classical works in which they are amply acknowledged.

He made a speciality of the assays of Nickel and Cobalt, but it is much to be regretted that his work on these and other experimental works was never published, although it was always his intention to write a book on Assaying.

Mr. Smith in his earlier days visited a large number of mines and metallurgical works in England, thus making himself familiar with the treatment of ores on a practical scale, which he always maintained was a very important part of the training of a metallurgist.

Dr. Livingstone, when starting on his journey to Africa, tried to persuade Mr. Smith to go with him, but without success.

After nearly forty years of useful and honourable though unobtrusive public service, Mr. Smith retired at the beginning of last year, but we regret that his leisure was of very short duration. In consequence of a fall, he died on August 6th, 1891, after a long illness and several painful surgical operations. He was deeply regretted by a large circle of friends and fellow-workers, and many who write A.R.S.M. after their names will keep his memory green with grateful and kindly recollections.



Richard Smith