

OBITUARY.

THE LATE JAMES EDMUND HARTING.

By the death of James Edmund Harting we have lost one of the most prominent of the naturalists of the nineteenth century, who, though more particularly devoted to Ornithology was also an expert writer on Falconry, Angling, and Anti-quarian lore.

Born at Chelsea in 1841 and educated at Downside School and London University, he at first took up his father's profession of Solicitor, but, finding the Law distasteful, made up his mind to follow his true bent for Natural Science. As early as 1866 he published *The Birds of Middlesex*, while in 1869 he wrote his first article for *The Field*, and was on the staff of that paper during a period of over fifty years until his death at the age of 87 on January 16th, 1928. He was for long Editor of its Natural History Section, and also took over that of Shooting, besides being constantly available for answers on more general matters.

From 1877 to 1896 Harting edited *The Zoologist* and in 1882 was appointed to organize the Zoological Library at the newly-built Natural History Museum in South Kensington. Later he exchanged this post for that of Librarian and Assistant Secretary to the Linnean Society at Burlington House, and there remained a genial and courteous helper to all who needed his aid until his retirement in 1902.

Throughout all this period he kept up his devotion to sport, and was a welcome guest at many a country place for his charm, coupled with his skill as a shot... He was obliged to decline an invitation to accompany the late King Edward when Prince of Wales to India, but was appointed by the Government Secretary of the Vole Plague Commission (1893) and had previously helped to draft the 1873 Wild Birds' Protection Act.

As early as 1880 he was one of the chief British supporters of Falconry, and is said to have been the founder of the short-lived "New Hawking Club" at Epsom Downs.

Some of his chief works were:—*British Animals extinct within Historic Times*, *The Birds of Shakespeare*, *A Handbook of British Birds* (two editions), *Our Summer Migrants*, *Recreations of a Naturalist*, *Hints on Shore Shooting*, *Hints on the Management of Hawks*, and, greatest of all, *Bibliotheca Accipitraria* with its wealth of information for the Falconer.

As a kindly and trusty friend many will regret the loss of Harting, and as a great authority on Wading Birds all ornithologists will find his name on the roll of eminent naturalists.

A.H.E.