

THE LATE MR. H. W. PONTIS.

The remains of Mr. Henry William Pontis, of the Broom, Rotherham, whose death we recorded with regret last week, were interred at the Rotherham General Cemetery on Sunday.

The blinds of many of the residences of friends along the route of the funeral were drawn. The simple and impressive service was of the character usual at interments of the Brethren, and was conducted by Mr. Smithers, of Gloucester. After the coffin, which was borne by six of the Brethren from the Thorpe Hesley Meeting-room, had been lowered into the grave, prayer was offered and a portion of Scripture read, followed by a short address and appeal to any around the grave who were still unsaved to prepare to meet God. Then the assembled company joined in singing part of Thomas Kelly's beautiful hymn—

Rich in glory, Thou did'st stoop,
Thence is all Thy people's hope;
Thou was't poor that we might be
Rich in glory, Lord, with Thee,

after which the service was concluded with prayer.

Among those present, besides the mourners, were friends from the immediate neighbourhood, as well as from Thorpe, Sheffield, Doncaster, and Manchester. The coffin was of pitch pine, and bore the following inscription:—"Henry W. Pontis, died November 29th, 1906, aged 49 years. Gone to his rest." The coffin was supplied by Messrs. J. Moorhouse and Co.

In addition to the biographical particulars published in the "Advertiser" last week, it has to be recorded that as a Sunday scholar Mr. Pontis attended the Zion Chapel until eight years of age, when he commenced to go with his parents to the meetings of the Brethren, with whom he continued to worship, having been a warm and devout supporter of the principles he cherished. Some idea of his love for the Brethren may be found when it is stated that he compiled two volumes in scrapbook form of historical, biographical, doctrinal, critical, and anecdotal "Notices of Brethren," which are much sought after by the more observant members from all parts of the country, and to which they attach great value, inasmuch as it is the only compilation of its kind in existence. It has also been at the annual conference of the Brethren when held in Exeter.

Mr. Pontis was a man of true, consistent Christian character, and one who might well be set down as an example. He pursued his daily path of life in a quiet and unassuming manner, being of a retiring disposition, fond of the beauties of Nature and of his books, but never aspiring to public positions or taking part in any public matters. He was looked upon by many to be an authority on local history.

*died 29 Nov 1906
Aged 49
Interred on Sunday*