

CRIMP

18.6. 1853 Ringmore - 21.4. 1901 London

William Santo Crimp was educated privately and started working for the agricultural engineers of Modbury. Later, he came to London as a pupil of Charles Hyde. In 1875, he conducted hydro-geological surveys in Surrey and contributed to the sewage scheme of Melton Mowbray as a resident engineer in 1877. Some years later, he took over the Wandle valley sewage scheme for the Croydon authorities. In 1881, Crimp was appointed engineer at the Wimbledon local board. After having improved the poor conditions of the sewage farm, he initiated experimentation with treatment of sewage.



In 1890, Crimp continued his career as district engineer at the London county council and once again, he was one of the leading engineers working on the sewage system. He presented notable work on the London drainage scheme. In 1895, he also introduced the Manning formula for sewers but without citing the Irishman.

Starting in 1894, Crimp acted as a consulting engineer and designed several drainage schemes for the districts of Woking, Ilford and Gillingham, and for cities such as Glasgow, Cardiff and Bristol. These projects were among the very first in the UK, and Crimp contributed considerably to the success of the country's drainage engineering in the 20th century. He also presented a design for the drainage scheme of Bombay, India, and visited the subcontinent in 1899. His report on the sanitary conditions showed that only drastic measures could rescue the city from its life-destroying surroundings. Crimp died much too early from pneumonia.

Anonymous (1901). Mr. William Santo Crimp. *Journal of the Gas Lighting and Water Supply* 77: 1113.

Anonymous (1901). William Santo Crimp. *Minutes Institution of Civil Engineers* 145: 343-346.

Anonymous (1901). Mr. William Santo Crimp. *Proc. Institution Municipal and Civil Engineers* 27: 359-362.

Anonymous (1901). William Santo Crimp. *The Engineer* 91: 458.

Crimp, G.S. (2002). William Santo Crimp. Personal communication. P

Crimp, W.S. (1894). *Sewage disposal works: A guide to the construction of works for the prevention of the pollution by sewage of rivers and estuaries*. Griffin: London.

Crimp, W.S., Bruges, C.E. (1895). A new formula for the flow in sewers and water-mains. *Minutes Institution of Civil Engineers* 122: 198-201.

Crimp, W.S. (1897). The main drainage of London and the purification of the Thames. *Minutes Institution of Civil Engineers* 88: 175-299; 97: 383.

diane collinson

From: dennis.smout [dennis.smout @virgin.net]
Sent: 21 July 2008 15:09
To: djc.bellevue@virgin.net
Subject: Ringmore Crimps

Thanks for the message. I will put a letter into the post today and hope to find a way to get a copy of the photo of Ben Crimp and any other information available. I have just sent off a photo of my little American grandson to his great-aunt in Texas so will now try sending some information about William Santo Crimp for your records. My Crimp family are traced back to 1660 in Woodleigh and as present cousins farm Tuffland I suspect there is a connection between John Crimp, Lower Manor Farm, Ben Crimp Higher Manor Farm and my gt.grandfather John Arundel Crimp.

As an explanation of how this search came about, five years ago my husband and I were walking on a beach with mobile phone patched through from our landline and a call came from a foreign gentleman who had been given my number by the Crimp family at Tuffland. He was phoning from Belgium but was professor of hydrology at Zurich University and was looking for information on William Santo Crimp and I was only able to say without reference to records, that I had heard of someone with that unusual name. I asked him to phone me at home the following evening, got his email address, sent him everything I had including the name and address of a possible descendant in Australia and to my surprise the following morning I received an email from Glyn Crimp in Australia.

My husband and I subsequently visited Ringmore (I am familiar with the area, I went to Modbury school, Kingsbridge Grammar, and of course have family connections) and looked up the records in Exeter.

Glyn has been here for a couple of days and this has reminded me of the photo (which strongly resembled my Uncle Harold Crimp) which is why I hoped to trace it. I am sure he would be interested as indeed I would be too to have as much information as possible. Oddly enough, my Australia cousins were unaware that there were any other Crimps around over there.

Thank you for your help.

Stella Smout

*This is the person with whom I
 exchanged emails about William Santo Crimp.*

No virus found in this incoming message.

Checked by AVG - <http://www.avg.com>

Version: 8.0.138 / Virus Database: 270.5.3/1564 - Release Date: 21/07/2008 06:42

22/07/2008

THE GREAT HYDROLOGIST ? ICIST

Ringmore parish should be massively proud of William Santo Crimp. He was born in 1854 and brought up in Ringmore. His father farmed 150 acres or thereabouts from Lower Farm (now Lower Manor). He was described as a 'sickly' child who was not therefore allowed to go to school but educated on his own. At the age of seventeen he designed a public water supply for Modbury. It is said that traces are still in existence. He worked briefly for an agricultural engineer in Modbury but was obviously fascinated with 'public' water and sewerage (works) and their implications for public health.

In a short article we can do little but summarise his career. 1875 : hydro-geological surveys in Surrey and worked on the sewerage scheme at Melton Mowbray. Later he took over the Croydon scheme and in 1881 was appointed Engineer to the Wimbledon Local Board. He completed improvements to the sewage farm but was convinced that the fumes emanating from grilles and the farm were intrinsically linked to Public Health and it was in Wimbledon that he made his great breakthrough by installing vent 'columns' to the sewerage systems. Thus, the noxious and often harmful fumes escaped into the atmosphere some height above street level rather than being released through the grilles. These 'Wimbledon Pipes' became an urban feature often bearing municipal coats of arms as a tribute to the new 'invention'. There are five surviving in Wimbledon in their municipal splendour ; there are some at Tunbridge Wells and elsewhere. These authorities seem proud to have them. Not long ago the 'Western Morning News' featured one at Bovey Tracey ! And there is a poor sad one in Rectory Lane, Ringmore : one of three installed in the 1930s which neither our Water Board nor its agents are interested in preserving.

Beginning in 1894 , he designed schemes as a consulting engineer for Woking, Ilford and Gillingham and for larger cities Glasgow, Cardiff and Bristol. He also designed a drainage scheme for Bombay, visited India in 1899 and convinced city authorities there that they must reform or drastic consequences would follow. He was a prolific writer on sewerage problems such as the pollution of rivers and outflows to the sea. His last major work was on the main drainage of London and the purification of the Thames. He is held in high regard by the Institute of Civil Engineers of which body he may have been a founding member. He was honoured by a Fellowship.

William Santo Crimp died aged 47 in 1901 of pneumonia in Kensington. Perhaps after all he was a 'sickly child'. But what he might have achieved had he lived longer...

Therefore

Recd from Candidate personally
5 April 1879

4412 FORM A. 172

The Institution of Civil Engineers,

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 2, 1818—INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER JUNE 3, 1824.

25, GREAT GEORGE STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

William Santo Crimp, Stud. Inst. C.E.
3 Ross Villas, Melton. Born June 18/53
5, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, W. being upwards of 25 years

age, and being desirous of belonging to THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, I recommend him, from PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE, as in every respect worthy of that distinction, because

Served a course of pupillage with the late Charles Hyde,
Civil Engineer, from May 1874, and upon the death of Mr Hyde in 1875,
was engaged by Mr Baldwin Fothergill, M.P., and has been
employed upon various surveys of, and preparing plans
for, public works, including the Wandsworth Water Works,
Croydon Rural Sanitary Authority's Works of Sewerage and Sewage Dis-
posal. In October 1877, was appointed by Mr Fothergill, Resident En-
gineer of the Melton Mowbray Sewerage Works, and remained in that
position until the completion of the works in 1878. Last year was
appointed Resident Engineer on the Works of Sewerage for the districts of
Milcham, Melton, Melton Rush, Morden, Boddington and Wallington, and is
now superintending the execution of these works under the supervision of Mr Baldwin Fothergill.

On the above grounds, I beg leave to propose him to the Council as a proper person to belong to the

Signature of the Proposer Baldwin Fothergill Corporate Member

3rd day of April 1879.

I, the undersigned, concur in the above recommendation, from personal knowledge, and being fully con-
vinced he is in every respect a proper person to belong to the Institution.

FROM PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE.	FROM PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE.
<u>Henry Robinson</u>	<u>J. Hullock</u>
<u>R. P. Spigg</u>	
<u>John Church</u>	
<u>Thomas Field</u>	
<u>Richard Hassard</u>	
<u>Richard Fothergill</u>	

The Council, having considered the above recommendation, present William Santo Crimp
to be balloted for as an Associate Member of THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

Read for the first time 29 April 1879
Passed by the Council

Signed, J. F. Bateman Chairman.

Read at Ordinary Meeting 29 April 1879
Balloted for 6 May 1879

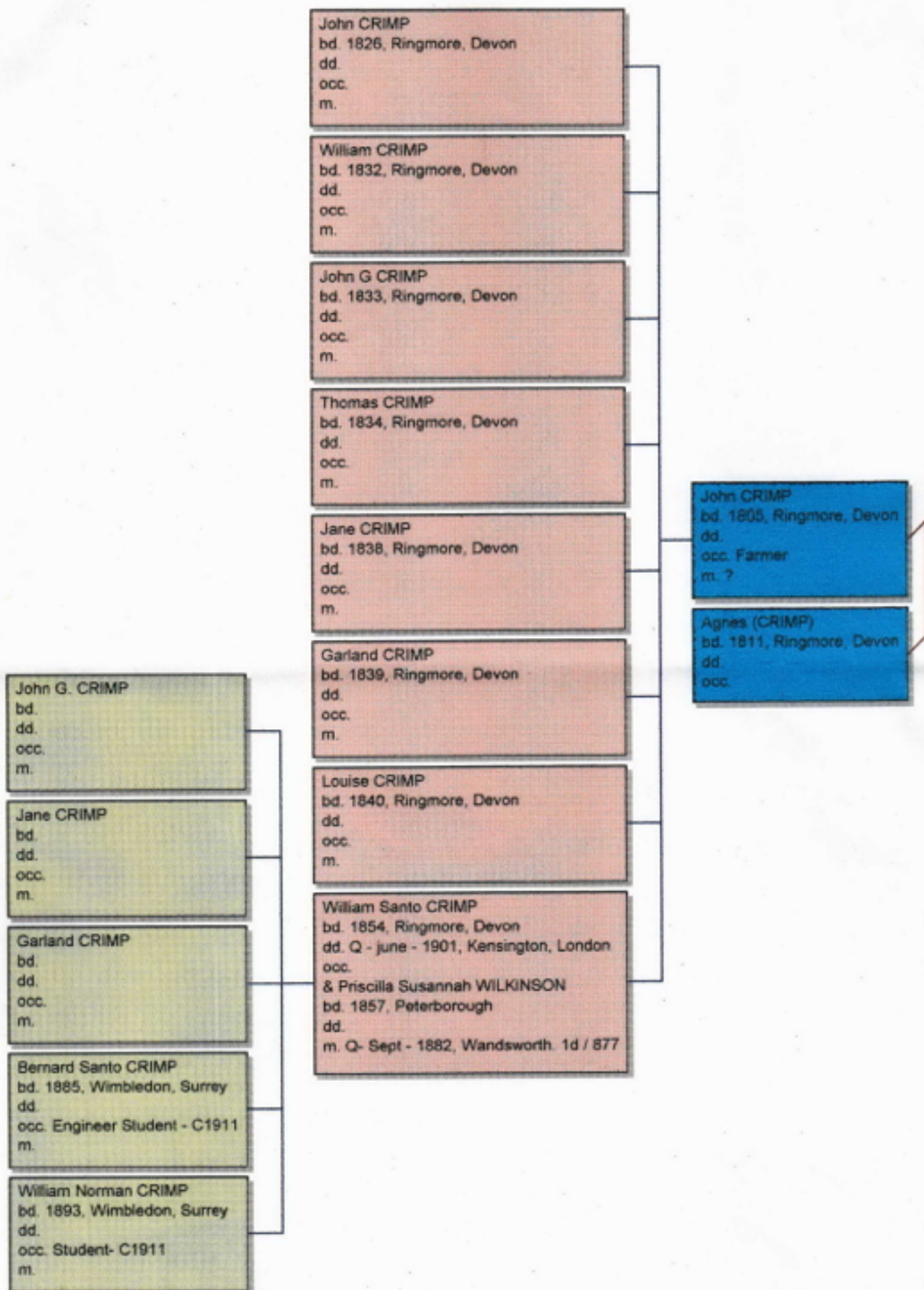
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Family Group Sheet

Name	William Santo CRIMP	
Birth	1854	Ringmore, Devon
Death	Q - June - 1901	Kensington, London
Father	John CRIMP (1805-)	
Mother	Agnes (CRIMP) (1811-)	
Marriage	Q- Sept - 1882	Wandsworth. Id / 877
Spouse	Priscilla Susannah WILKINSON	
Birth	1857	Peterborough
Children:		
1 M	John G. CRIMP	
2 F	Jane CRIMP	
3 M	Garland CRIMP	
4 M	Bernard Santo CRIMP	
Birth	1885	Wimbledon, Surrey
5 M	William Norman CRIMP	
Birth	1893	Wimbledon, Surrey
Notes for William Santo CRIMP		
from free BMD- died 1901- Q-June- Kensington Ia /67		
Notes for Priscilla Susannah WILKINSON		
C-1911: widow, living at 18, Matheson Rd, West Kensington, London. District - Fulham		

Family Group Sheet

Name	John CRIMP	
Birth	1805	Ringmore, Devon
Occupation	Farmer	
Marriage	?	
Spouse	Agnes (CRIMP)	
Birth	1811	Ringmore, Devon
Children:		
1 M	John CRIMP	
Birth	1826	Ringmore, Devon
2 M	William CRIMP	
Birth	1832	Ringmore, Devon
3 M	John G CRIMP	
Birth	1833	Ringmore, Devon
4 M	Thomas CRIMP	
Birth	1834	Ringmore, Devon
5 F	Jane CRIMP	
Birth	1838	Ringmore, Devon
6 M	Garland CRIMP	
Birth	1839	Ringmore, Devon
7 F	Louise CRIMP	
Birth	1840	Ringmore, Devon
8 M	William Santo CRIMP	
Birth	1854	Ringmore, Devon
Death	Q - June - 1901	Kensington, London
Spouse	Priscilla Susannah WILKINSON	
Marriage	Q- Sept - 1882	Wandsworth, Id / 877
Notes for John CRIMP		
<p>C1841 - Living at Lower Farm, Ringmore C1851 - Lower Farm- farmed 160 acres C1861 - Living at Lower Farm, Ringmore. employing 2 x men. farming 210 acres C1871 - Living at Venn Cottages, Ringmore age 66. may have retired</p>		



shot at both large and small game, and many a panther, bear and ibex have fallen to his rifle in the Coimbatore district. He was a keen naturalist, especially in the field of ornithology, and regularly contributed the results of his experience to the columns of "The Asian" and "The Field" under the well-known *nom de plume* of "Smoothbore." Lastly, he was a great lover of books, and was intimately acquainted with English literature.

Mr. Carter was a man of gifted qualifications, refinement and culture; but the prominent feature in his character was to be found in his vigorous personality, which infused itself in all his dealings with his fellow-men. Essentially right-minded, methodical to a degree, of strong and healthy instincts, he was clear, practical and decisive; conspicuously just, but unobtrusively kind, and of great quickness of perception. In private life he was simple, unaffected and unostentatious, and except to his family and intimate friends, perhaps somewhat reserved; he was punctual and exact in all his engagements, and required others to be the same; resolute in his adherence to his convictions, he yet held liberal views on all questions of social interest.

Mr. Carter was elected a Member of the Institution on the 13th January, 1880, and in 1896 his name was enrolled on the books as an honorary life subscriber.

WILLIAM SANTO CRIMP, born at Ringmore, South Devon, on the 18th June, 1853, was educated at home, being considered too delicate to go to a public school. He evidently had a natural bent for engineering—when only a youth he designed a small scheme of water-supply for the village of Modbury, adjoining the parish in which he lived; and this scheme was subsequently successfully carried out, and is still in operation. On the completion of his education he first served an apprenticeship with a firm of Agricultural Engineers at Modbury, and subsequently came to London as a pupil for two years of the late Mr. Charles Hyde. At the end of 1875 he became an assistant to Mr. Baldwin Latham, under whom he was engaged for a considerable period in making hydro-geological surveys in Surrey. During 1877 he went to Melton Mowbray, and took charge, as Resident Engineer, of the sewerage works for that town, designed and carried out by Mr. Baldwin Latham. In the following year he was engaged in making further hydro-geological surveys, chiefly in connection with the opposition to the Metropolis Water Bill, proposed by the

Metropolitan Board of Works. About that time he was also employed on various surveys in connection with works of water-supply and sewage in different parts of the country. In the same year he became Resident Engineer under Mr. Latham on the Wandle Valley sewerage scheme for the Croydon Rural Sanitary Authority. This scheme included an important outfall works at Merton, with large pumping station, described by Mr. Crimp in a Paper presented to the Institution in 1884.¹

Towards the end of 1881, on these works nearing completion, Mr. Crimp was appointed Engineer and Surveyor to the Wimbledon Local Board. At that time there were complaints of serious defects in the main drainage of that district, and great nuisance was caused by the sewage farm. So bad in fact was the state of the farm that an action was brought to restrain the Wimbledon Authority from continuing to treat sewage on a considerable area of the farm; and but for the steps taken by Mr. Crimp the plaintiffs in this action would doubtless have obtained the injunction they were seeking. The Wimbledon Sewage Farm, as first laid out, gave Mr. Crimp a great deal of anxiety, and it was only after he had altered the whole method of working which had obtained up to that time that he was able to get an effluent sufficiently pure to admit its being turned into the River Wandle. The farm consisted entirely of heavy clay land, and the whole of the surface had been drained by means of field drains laid close to the surface, so that the sewage when admitted for irrigation immediately found its way into the sub-soil drains, and passed out at a point of discharge in almost as bad a state as when first admitted. Mr. Crimp prevented this by placing a bed of puddle over each drain at such a depth as to be below any liability of disturbance from cultivation. He then had the siftings from the house refuse and road drift dug in, so as to prevent the clay from cracking in dry weather. These methods proved most successful, and are still being used; and, it may be stated that, during the last eighteen years, there has been a uniformly high class effluent from this farm.

The whole time he was at Wimbledon Mr. Crimp may be said to have been continuously experimenting on a practical scale with the treatment of sewage; and he doubtless acquired there that thorough grasp of this difficult subject which was of such assistance to him in after years. He also made many valuable experiments on the treatment of sludge and its disposal; and on

¹ Minutes of Proceedings Inst. C.E., vol. lxxvi. p. 317.

the movement of air in sewers. The results of many of these experiments were communicated by him to the Institution.¹ During his connection with the Wimbledon Local Board he prepared a scheme of water-supply for that authority, which was adopted by the Board; but, owing to one of the London Water Companies obtaining powers over the district, his scheme was not proceeded with. While at Wimbledon he carried out a large number of works, including the erection of two bridges over the River Wandle.

In February, 1890, Mr. Crimp was appointed District Engineer to the London County Council, where he had charge of the Barking Outfall Works under Sir Alexander Binnie. With Sir Alexander's concurrence, he introduced radical changes at Barking in the working of the precipitation tanks, and thereby was successful in reducing the labour involved in removing the sludge from the tanks; and in many other ways he improved the methods of working. In conjunction with Mr. Worth he presented to the Institution a valuable Paper entitled "The Main Drainage of London."² He was also engaged in several large street improvements in London, including the formation of Rosebery Avenue.

In July, 1894, Mr. Crimp joined the firm of Messrs. John Taylor & Sons, of Westminster; and from that time to his death continued to practise as a Consulting Engineer. During this period, Mr. Crimp, on behalf of the firm of which he was a partner, constructed many main drainage schemes, among which may be mentioned those for the districts of Woking, Ilford, Shrewsbury and Gillingham. He also acted as Consulting Engineer to the Corporations of Glasgow, Cardiff, and Bristol, in the matters of main drainage schemes for those cities; in each case acting in conjunction with the City Engineer.

In the summer of 1899 Mr. Crimp was invited by the Municipality of Bombay to visit India, with a view to report on questions arising out of the main drainage of that city, and on a number of other matters affecting the health of the community. He visited India for this purpose, and successfully dealt with many questions on which his advice was required. Whilst in India a number of other municipalities, including Simla, Surat, Cawnpore, and Poona, obtained his advice on numerous questions. He also

¹ Minutes of Proceedings Inst. C.E., vol. lxxxviii. p. 175; vol. xxvii. p. 383; and vol. cxxii. p. 198.

² *Ibid.*, vol. cxxix. p. 49.

investigated for the Indian Government the question of underground water supplies within the Presidency of Bombay, and made a voluminous and valuable report thereon.

Mr. Crimp had of late years become an acknowledged authority on all matters of municipal engineering. He was an excellent Parliamentary witness; having so thorough a grasp of the subject that he was able to answer almost any question with precision. His services were in consequence retained for nearly all the Corporation Bills of recent years.

His death was sudden and unexpected. In general he enjoyed good health, although he was not particularly robust. While making an inspection of some lands in the north of England during the cold wet weather of April, 1901, he contracted a severe chill, which, developing into pleurisy and pneumonia, resulted in his death on the 21st of that month. At the early age of 47 he was thus cut off in the prime of his professional career and at a time when his reputation had become firmly established. It may be truly said of him that whilst he had hosts of friends, he never made a single enemy.

Mr. Crimp was elected an Associate Member of the Institution on the 6th May, 1879, and was transferred to the class of Members on the 13th January, 1891.

JOHN BARKER HUNTINGTON, born in 1817, began his engineering career in 1834 as a pupil of Mr. John Braithwaite. On the expiration of his pupilage he remained with Mr. Braithwaite as principal Assistant and as a Resident Engineer on the construction of the Eastern Counties Railway, now part of the Great Eastern Company's system. From 1845 to 1853 he was employed on general engineering work in connection with railways and docks, and in the latter year he presented to the Institution a Paper entitled "Observations on Salt Water, and its Application to the Generation of Steam."¹ In 1854 he went to Italy for two years to represent the interest of the English shareholders in the Lucca and Pistoja Railway.

From 1856 Mr. Huntington was engaged in private practice for about ten years, chiefly in connection with railways and waterworks. In 1866 he was appointed Inspector of Roads and Bridges

¹ Minutes of Proceedings Inst. C.E., vol. xii. p. 506.