

# ROUND ABOUT BINGLEY

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## The Late Mr. Alfred Platts.

The death of Mr. Alfred Platts, the clerk to the Bingley District Council, will naturally give a sorrowful tinge to the annual meeting of the Council next Monday evening. It is the first time a clerk to the Council has died when in office, and the loss is one which every member of the body will feel. Always courteous to every member, and one who helped any member in any possible way an official could, he had the respect and regard of everyone, and all recognised the faithfulness of his public service, and the many good points in his character. Absolute straightness and fair-mindedness was one of his features, and a quiet steadfastness another; but he was one who never cared for the limelight and avoided it as much as he could, even when discharging official duties. Everyone had hoped for a favourable turn to his illness, but he passed away, leaving behind him a memory that is good. For more than thirty years he had been, in one capacity or another, associated with the public affairs of Bingley, and in every office he held he enjoyed the confidence of those with whom he worked, and this was shown by the attendance at his funeral.

## A Sad Coincidence.

It was a sad coincidence, and one which came with a shock to many in Bingley because of its unexpectedness, that his predecessor in the office of clerk to the Council, Mr. Richard Armistead, should die three days later. His absence from the funeral of Mr. Platts was noted by some, and the reason for it was asked among them, but it was not until the morning following that they learnt of it. Mr. Armistead, too, had played a notable part in the local government of Bingley, and much was accomplished during the twenty years he held office, first under the Bingley Improvement Commissioners and latterly under the District Council, the successors to the Commissioners. He came to Bingley in 1878 as surveyor, a young man, but one who quickly made good and early displayed the abilities which ultimately brought him to a high position in his profession. At first surveyor only, in a few years he combined with that post the office of clerk to the authority. It was, as mentioned, a busy period in the development of Bingley, for it witnessed the improvement of Main Street from Park Road downwards, the negotiations and arrangements which led to the erection of the present railway station, and the taking over of the Mechanics' Institute for public purposes and the establishment there of the free library and the public baths. Many other things were also accomplished—there was the provision of the Cottage Hospital and the building of the Technical School—and in all developments Mr. Armistead took his part.