

BUTLEIGH.

DEATH OF **DR. GILLESPIE.** General regret was evinced in this village, and by a large circle of friends throughout the neighbourhood, on Sunday, when it became known that Dr. Gillespie, the medical superintendent of Sir George Bowles' Hospital, had expired after a very brief illness. Deceased had been actively engaged in his profession up till Friday last week, so that the sad news, which was conveyed to the church on Sunday morning just after special prayer on his behalf, came as a painful surprise to the majority of the parish. The deceased gentleman, who was a native of Ireland, was 49 years of age, and received his education in Dublin, where he took the degree of the college, and that of surgeon and physician. Previous to his appointment as medical superintendent of Butleigh hospital in 1886, he filled a like post at the Dorset County Asylum, from where he went to Castle Gary and practised for a short time. Deceased was of a genial and kindly nature, and won the respect of a goodly number of friends, to whom his sad death, at a comparatively early age, will cause sincere regret. In him the poor of the neighbourhood have lost a warm-hearted friend, and he will be much missed by them. The deceased gentleman leaves a widow and two children, a boy and girl, aged 13 and 11 years respectively, to mourn their loss. The immediate cause of death was influenza, accelerated by failure of the heart. The funeral took place on Thursday afternoon, at the parish churchyard, and in every respect testified to the esteem in which the deceased gentleman was held. The procession started from the residence of the deceased at 2.30 p.m., and, besides the two children and relatives of the deceased, was composed of the clergy and principal inhabitants and agriculturists of the neighbourhood, including Mr. E. Nevilie-Grenville, Revs. Preb. Brymer, W. Neville, H. Dawes, R. Rapson, A. Whitehead, and H. Elton; Mr. Christie, Charlton, Drs Doidge and Blakiston, and Messrs F. A. Hake, J. Windmill, and Barrett, of Glastonbury, &c. Admiral Lord Hood of Avalon, G.C.B., was also represented. The coffin was of polished oak, with massive brass furniture, with the following inscribed on the breast-plate: —

"William Henry Gillespie. fell asleep 31st October, 1897 ; aged 49 years."

There were six bearers, and the body was borne on a hand-bier, covered with a velvet pall. The surpliced choir met the procession at the church gate, and preceded the body into the church, the vicar reciting the opening portion of the burial-service. The vicar (the Rev. G. W. Berkeley), assisted by the Rev. G. Smith (vicar of Barton-St.-David), officiated. Hymns 286 and 401 were sang, and the psalm was cxxx. The committal portion of the service was performed at the graveside, where the choir sang the hymn, "Now the labourer's task is o'er." A large number of people assembled at the church and grave-side, and seemed to feel deeply the loss they had sustained. Mr Latcham carried out the duties of undertaker.

The grave was lined with moss and flowers, and the coffin was covered with a number of beautiful wreaths, amongst them being one from Admiral Lord and Lady Hood of Avalon and the Hon. Miss Hood, Mr. and Mrs Neville-Grenville, Mr. Frederick and Miss Grace Neville, Preb. and Mrs Brymer, the Misses Dickinson, etc.