

SIR WILLIAM O'SHAUGHNESSY BROOKE, F.R.S., died on the 8th of January, 1889, at Southsea, after a short illness. He was born in Limerick in 1809, and was therefore in his 80th year. His original

Proc Roy Soc London v. 46 [XLVI] #285  
UCB main Q41 xix L844 v. 46. 1889

name was William O'Shaughnessy, but he took the name of Brooke on the death of a relative of that name. He graduated as M.D. at Edinburgh in 1833, and shortly afterwards joined the Bengal Army as Assistant Surgeon. He was promoted to Surgeon in 1848, and to Surgeon-Major in 1858. In 1835 he was appointed Professor of Chemistry in the Medical College at Calcutta. From 1844 to 1851 he acted as Assay Master of the Calcutta Mint. He was of a scientific turn of mind, and took readily to the experiments made by Cooke and Wheatstone in telegraphy in 1837. He made some experiments in submarine telegraphy across the Hooghly, at Calcutta, in 1839, and he was the first to introduce the telegraph into India. In 1852 he was appointed Superintendent-General of Telegraphs in India, and he retained that post until 1862, when he resigned and retired from the Indian Medical Service. He was the author of several papers on scientific and engineering subjects, many of which appeared in the Journals of the Asiatic Society. He was knighted for his valuable services in establishing the service of telegraphs throughout India, and he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1843.

W. H. P.