

MR. JOSEPH P. HARTE

The sudden death in April last of Mr. Joseph P. Harte came as a shock to many in Irish forestry circles.

As a forester on the staff of the Forestry Division of the Department of Lands since 1935 Mr. Harte had the respect and confidence of all his colleagues. A native of Moone, Co. Kildare, his earlier training

was in agriculture and horticulture which subjects he studied at the agricultural schools at Ballyhaise and Mountbellew and at the Albert College, and the botanic gardens, Dublin. His knowledge of those subjects proved very useful in his coming to grips with the closely allied subject of forestry.

Mr. Harte was a shrewd and discerning forester and was quick to get down to the essentials in any scheme of work. Thriving plantations at Mullingar, New Ross, Mullinavat and Avoca forests stand witness to his ability and industry. In the last-mentioned forest he proved his worth as a nurseryman where, during the past five years, the management of a ten acre nursery was among his duties.

His death is a loss to our Society of which he was an enthusiastic member. At our study tours he was a familiar figure and on such occasions was always ready with his help in the identification of rare trees and shrubs, an activity in which he was particularly skilled.

A quiet and unobtrusive man, he seemed reserved to those meeting him for the first time. Among his friends, however, he was capable of being quite a brilliant *raconteur*. He had the gift of being able to interweave through the most serious pieces of conversation some subtle bits of humour to the delight of those present. His wit was, however, never unkind.

The sympathy of members goes to Mrs. Harte and family.