

## William John Bryan

It was with great regret and shock that we learned of the sudden death of "Bill" Bryan the District Forest Officer in charge of the West Tyrone District in March this year. To those of us who worked with him the shock was increased by the fact that Bill had so fully recovered from his illness of some years ago and seemed totally his old enthusiastic self.

A native of Wicklow, Bill came north in the mid forties and having gained a Forestry Commission foresters certificate and a diploma from the Royal Scottish Forestry Society spent nearly twenty years in charge of forests in Co. Derry, mainly at Springwell and Cam. He studied for and obtained the National Diploma in Forestry becoming a Head Forester and on promotion to District Forest Officer moved to Omagh and the West Tyrone District in 1969 first as assistant and then taking charge of the District.

Bill was an enthusiastic member of our Society and indeed of every other major forestry society in Great Britain and Ireland. He was totally dedicated to forestry in all its aspects and was prepared to give all his time and experience not only to his official duties but also to organising tours, giving talks or any other activity which would further the cause of forestry in Ireland.

With his vast practical experience, keen insight into problems and his love of discussion on forestry matters Bill made a unique contribution to the education of his younger colleagues, and his opinions were equally valued as contributions to our future forest policy.

Bill's love of arguments on forestry matters could give a misleading impression of a tough character to those who knew him only casually whereas those of us who worked with him realised he was one of the kindest, fairest and most considerate colleagues one could wish for. We miss him greatly. To his wife Betty, his daughters Linda and Judy we extend our deepest sympathy.

J. C. L. Phillips.