

Daniel Rankin Steuart, F.I.C.

DANIEL RANKIN STEUART, who died at his residence, Blackhall, on 1st August 1925, was well-known in scientific circles in the East of Scotland.

Born at Bogside, Lanarkshire, seventy-seven years ago, he was named after Dr Rankin of Carluke, the family physician, and as a child he came under the stimulating influence of this well-known geologist. His school education as a boy was much interrupted by ill health, and under the doctor's guidance he was introduced to the wonders of botany and geology out of doors.

During ten years of open air life devoted to farming and gardening, he built up sufficient health to enable him to take up the study of chemistry at Edinburgh under Crum Brown, and later at Glasgow under Dittmar. He also spent six months studying at Munich. For a few years he worked under the late Sir George Beilby as oilworks chemist at Oakbank, and in 1877 was appointed chief chemist of the newly started Broxburn Oil Company, in which capacity he remained for over forty years, taking a prominent part in the development of the works at Broxburn.

He was a Fellow of the Institute of Chemistry, and a member of the Chemical Societies of both Great Britain and America.

He did much original work in Shale Oils, and contributed papers to many learned societies, articles to standard chemical dictionaries, and an important memoir for the Geological Survey. One authority has bracketed Steuart, Redwood, Markovnikoff as the world's greatest petroleum technologists.

Some thirty years ago he made strenuous but unavailing efforts to have the laws altered to prohibit the use of dangerous lamp oils, but he lived to see the oils made safe through the extraction of the dangerous lighter fractions which are now required for motor spirit.

Five years ago he retired to Blackhall in failing health, having continued in harness until the War was over. He had always hoped to devote his leisure to literary work, but never regained sufficient strength to do so. He was elected a Fellow of this Society in 1916.

A. S.