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Parsons, H F (1846 – 1913).

Posted on [May 27, 2011](#) by [Chris](#)

Henry Franklin Parsons was a civil servant and doctor (medical inspector). He trained at St Mary's – see below (a snippet from The Lancet) :

Hill. —Summer Session, 1864: Prize for Students of the First Year, Mr. H. F. Parsons; Certificates of Honour, Mr. John Ockenden and Mr. John George Randall. Prize for Students of the Second Year, Mr. N. Bisdoo Major; Certificate of Honour, Mr. T. T. Taylor. —Comparative Anatomy, 1864: Prize, Mr. H. F. Parsons. —Natural Philosophy, 1864: Prize, Mr. H. F. Parsons; Certificate of Honour, Mr. J. G. Randall.

He and his family lived at Whitworth Road, South Norwood and then Oakhyrst, 4 Park Hill Rise, Croydon. His father (Joshua) was also a doctor in Beckington, near Frome; and was still practising medicine well into his seventies.

Henry was the eldest of fourteen children; his *brother Alfred* was an artist / painter (landscapes and botanical works). Henry was a member of various learned societies, for example : the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society – as listed below

164	<i>List of Members for 1893.</i>
365	Newnham, Capt. N. J. <i>Blagdon Court, Bristol</i> Newton, F. M. <i>Taunton</i> Newton, F. W. <i>Barton Grange, Taunton</i> Nichols, Jas. 8, <i>Osborne Terrace, Taunton</i> Norman, G. 12, <i>Brock-street, Bath</i>
370	Norris, Hugh, <i>South Petherton</i> Odgers, Rev. J. E. <i>Horton, Cavendish-road, Borden, near Manchester</i> Odgers, Rev. J. Collins, 47, <i>Stanley Gardens, Hampstead, London, N.</i> O'Donoghue, Henry O'Brien, <i>Long Ashton</i> Ommañey, Rev. G. D. W. 29, <i>Beaumont-street, Oxford</i>
375	Page, J. Ll. W. <i>Clarendon, Torrs Park, Ilfracombe</i> Paget, Sir Richard H., Bart., M.P. <i>Cranmore Hall, Shepton Mallet</i> Parsons, H. F., M.D. 4, <i>Park Hill Rise, Croydon, Surrey</i>

He was also an active member of the Microscopical Society

<http://www.archive.org/stream/journalofmicroscop3post#page/56/mode/2up/search/parsons>

and the Croydon Microscopical and Natural History Club. He was a member of their meteorological committee and a vice-president of the Club circa 1905 ;have a look in the link below –

<http://www.archive.org/stream/proceedingstrans01croyn#page/n53/mode/2up/search/parsons>

He was also interested in what are now termed phenological studies, which no doubt tied in with his meteorological recordings.

date. The annexed table, compiled from observations made by Dr. Parsons in his garden at Park Hill Rise, Croydon, shows that of twenty-seven species of early hardy flowering plants the date of flowering in 1903 was in all but two cases earlier than the mean date in the ten years 1893–1902, the average of the whole being eleven days earlier. The oak was seen in leaf on April 5th. In April, however,

There is a note in *Journal of Bryology*, Vol 6 that he collected (bryological) specimens near Beckington, and that some of these specimens are held in the Oxford herbarium, and Fenscore indicates that other might be in the

Devizes Museum.

He died 29th October, 1913.

Information and snippets obtained from uploads at www.archive.org

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One Response to *Parsons, H F (1846 – 1913)*.

Peter David Scott says:

September 10, 2012 at 4:57 pm

Dr. Parsons was a founder and president of Goole Scientific Society in Yorkshire for many years before moving to Croydon. This society also included Malcolm Morris (later Sir), dermatologist and pioneer of the use of colloidal silver in the treatment of infection, and also Dr. John Milne Bramwell who introduced hypnotism and hypnotic suggestion as a means of medical treatment and anesthesia. Another member of the society, Thomas Birks, recorder of botany, studied the algae of Goole and Thorne moors and was a founder member of the British Mycological Society, and the Yorkshire Naturalists Union.

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