

FRED TAYLOR (1871-1949).



FRED TAYLOR.
Photo: John Armitage, F.R.P.S.

This is a brief though sincere appreciation of Mr. Fred Taylor, the distinguished Oldham field naturalist, born January 21, 1871, who died peacefully at his home in Landseer Street two days before his 78th birthday. As engineer, he had a long association with Asa Lees & Co., textile machinists, of Oldham.

For more than thirty-five years he was my dearest friend and counsellor, generous and warm-hearted, and a constant source of inspiration. He used to say he hated letter-writing; but he sent me literally hundreds, always relating to some special branch of natural science, and invariably packed with first-hand observation and information, together with accurate and meticulous detail. Mr. Taylor was an assiduous collector, and no matter whether it was a clutch of twite's eggs from the local moors or a series of snail-shells from Bardsley Canal, their preservation and full data accompanying them made the specimens worthy enough for inclusion in the National collections.