

MEMOIRS

HAROLD HOSKING TAYLER

HAROLD HOSKING TAYLER, a Vice-President of the Institute from 1946 to 1949, died on 11 September 1962 at the age of 73 after a six months' progressive illness, borne with the philosophic fortitude that would have been expected of him, but deeply distressing to his family and friends because of the ravages that it brought about in his mental and physical vigour that until then could have been mistaken for those of a man 20 years younger. He was a quiet, reserved man who did not make friends easily, but those of us who knew him well counted ourselves privileged to have known him and enjoyed his friendship and wisdom for many years. He was a man of the highest principles—indeed there were some who thought that he was perhaps too uncompromising in his adherence to principle. But this was to misunderstand him and the difficult situations in which he more than once found himself and from which he could not extricate himself without either serious injury to his deepest convictions or the personal sacrifice that he chose; the proof of this is in the fact that the things that he stood for in one such important situation have in the ensuing years come about in full measure.

He started his actuarial career as a junior in the London, Edinburgh and Glasgow Assurance Company Limited, which was taken over by the Pearl in 1910. One aspect of his life as a brilliant actuary that stands out particularly is the influence that he, all unconsciously, exercised over a group of actuarial students and young actuaries who worked for him, first from 1920 when he was appointed Assistant Actuary of Pearl Assurance Company Limited, and later from 1932, when he was appointed Actuary, up to 1938, when the first of the difficult situations occurred to which reference has already been made. This influence is still felt to this day, as the writer himself can testify. Indeed, his memory is revered not only by those of us whose own actuarial careers gained immeasurably from the training and example received from him—his standards of work, in substance, in method and above all in style, were models of what they should be—but also by many other younger actuaries who learned to love him through his work among the students, first as the Council's representative on the Committee of the Students' Society and then from 1945 to 1948 as Chairman of the Society. It was in this period that the Committee did much of its work in reviewing the examination system that led to the appointment of the Lever Committee. Hosking Tayler had been a regular and staunch supporter of the Students' Society since its inception. He was an ordinary member of the Committee for a number of years in the 'twenties and was one of two members of the editorial sub-committee of *J.S.S.*, the other being his near namesake, F. G. Taylor. Two notes by him appear in Volume 1 of *J.S.S.*

In 1938 he joined the Nation Life and General Assurance Company and was a Director, Deputy General Manager and Actuary until 1951. Throughout this period and right up to his death he was Consulting Actuary to the New Ireland Assurance Company with which he had been associated in the early years of its formation. In more recent years he was fully engaged in consulting work, specializing in reversions and life interests, and he had built up a fresh reputation as an expert in the technical problems of the division of trust funds.

His published work was not extensive; it included an important article on industrial assurance for students in the *Life Assurance Text-Book*, which to quite a number of actuaries at that time represented the lifting of the veil that in those days appeared to obscure the essentials of industrial life assurance, and a paper entitled 'On Paid-up Policies and Surrender Values under the Industrial Assurance Acts' (*J.I.A.* 63, 271) that was submitted to the Institute in 1932 at the time when the Cohen Committee on industrial assurance was sitting. His outlook was always that of a student and his interest in and advice freely given on the work of his juniors were invaluable. His interventions in debates at Staple Inn Hall were not very frequent but they always showed his capacity to stand back from the problems in hand and to put them in a wider setting of basic principle.

He was one of the few actuaries who have qualified as A.C.I.I. by examination; and in the early 'twenties, with V. W. Tyler, he lectured for the Insurance Institute of London on new business procedure. This led in 1924 to the publication under their joint authorship of the standard text-book, *Life Assurance—from Proposal to Policy*, which, in revised editions, remains in the C.I.I. reading to this day.

He gained his Fellowship in 1920 and served on the Board of Examiners from 1927 to 1932. He served on the Council from 1929 to 1950. He was for many years a member of the Actuaries' Club and of the Gallio Club and was a founder member of the Fellowship, Denarius and Woolgatherers' Clubs. He was, in fact, the first Chairman of the Woolgatherers, many of whom will remember, with pleasure and profit, his wise remarks at club meetings on a wide variety of non-actuarial subjects. He was a keen freemason, having been Master of Insuranto Lodge in 1933. He leaves a widow and two sons, one of whom is a student-member of the Institute.

WILFRED PERKS

KENNETH JAMES BRITT

KENNETH JAMES BRITT died on 9 April 1963 at the age of 71. He had had a severe cerebral thrombosis in August 1960 and although he fought the effects of that misfortune with characteristic fortitude and determination he never really recovered. He had a further severe attack three or four weeks before he died and after that it seemed fairly certain the end could not be long delayed.

As a boy Britt had had several severe illnesses which confined him to bed for long periods. Inevitably they caused set-backs in his early education but they had their compensations for it was during these periods of illness that he developed a love for serious reading which was to remain with him for the rest of his life.

His first job on leaving King Edward VI's Grammar School, Five Ways, Birmingham, was in the bacteriological department of Birmingham University, where he had to write out reports on samples which had been the subject of bacteriological examination. He found the work interesting enough, but was not happy with the professor in charge and left after about a year. At the time his brother was with the Yorkshire Insurance Co. Ltd., doing well, and it was thought that the young Britt might well follow his older brother into insurance.