

MEMOIR

HERBERT GEORGE WILTON

HERBERT GEORGE WILTON, who died on 9 May 1959 after a brief illness, was born on 21 May 1882. He was educated at the King Edward VI Middle School, Norwich, and joined the staff of the Norwich Union Life Insurance Society in 1897. Most of his early years were spent in the actuarial department, and when a special valuation and statistical section was formed he became its first head. In 1919 he passed his examinations as a Fellow of the Institute and soon after was appointed an Assistant Actuary of the Society in charge of the valuation and statistical work. Four years later he became Secretary and second officer. This appointment created a record in the history of the Society for it was the first time that a Norwich-born man had risen from the position of junior clerk to that of second officer. In 1934 he was appointed General Manager and Actuary.

In his actuarial work, which had for so many years engaged his day-to-day attention, and in particular on the valuation and statistical side, he introduced many improvements, among other things devising a card system which was much in advance of what had been for many years used in the office, and it held the field until the introduction of statistical machinery.

During his term of office as Secretary he travelled widely, visiting South Africa, Canada and South America. It was in South Africa that he contracted a form of intermittent fever which gave him for some years considerable trouble, and in the end decided him to retire in 1937 after forty years' service.

At the time of his appointment as General Manager and Actuary of the Norwich Union Life, he was made a Director of the sister institution, the Norwich Union Fire, and on his retirement from the Life Executive he was also appointed a Director of the Life Office. Both these positions he held until 1957 when he reached the retiring age of 75, having given over sixty years' service to the Norwich Union.

In his younger days Wilton was a very useful bowler and retained his interest in cricket—captaining the office side for many years—to the end. He was indeed an all-round sportsman in every sense of the word, and found enjoyment in tennis and later in fishing. He was also keenly interested in pictures, particularly in those of the Norwich School, of which he had several works, and in furniture and old silver. For many years he was a regular attendant at the Antique Dealers' Fair.

At his delightful home a few miles from Norwich he always welcomed friends, and his Norfolk tales, in dialect, never failed to give amusement to visitors, particularly those from far afield. His many friends will long retain happy memories of a charming character.

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