

MEMOIRS

HENRY MOIR

HENRY MOIR, an eminent actuary, whose death took place on the 8th day of June, 1937, was born at Ratho, Scotland, on 22 February 1871. He received his education at George Watson's College in Edinburgh, then entered the service of the Scottish Life Assurance Company of Edinburgh. He became a Fellow of the Institute in 1899, having previously, in 1892, achieved his Fellowship in the Faculty of Actuaries, of which body he served as Secretary. Coming to America in 1901, Mr Moir passed the Fellowship examinations of the Actuarial Society of America (of which he was President), and was elected to the American Institute of Actuaries, the Casualty Actuarial Society and the American Mathematical Society.

In the United States, he became connected with the Provident Savings Life Assurance Society of New York as Actuary and in 1908 affiliated himself with the Home Life Insurance Company of New York as Vice-President and Actuary, serving in such capacity until 1922. From 1922 he was President of the United States Life Insurance Company until shortly before his death when he occupied the post of Chairman of the Finance Committee of that Company.

Mr Moir was a prolific contributor to actuarial and insurance journals, as well as an author of several books on insurance. Students best know him for his paper on "Office Premiums" which appears in Volume II of the *Transactions of the Faculty of Actuaries* and is included in the course of reading for the examinations of the Institute as well as of other actuarial societies. He was the principal contributor to the first edition of *Actuarial Studies No. 1*—"Sources and Characteristics of the Principal Mortality Tables", which was published by the Actuarial Society of America. His *Life Assurance Primer* has been widely used as a text in many colleges and universities. He was awarded the J. Chisholm Prize for his essay "On the Rationale of Discounted-Bonus Premiums", *J.I.A.* Vol. xxxvi, p. 4. His other papers are herewith mentioned to indicate the breadth of his interests in actuarial and insurance topics.

First Year's Risk, *T.F.A.* Vol. I, p. 17.

Amortization of Bonds and Valuation of Assets of a Life Insurance Company, *T.F.A.* Vol. VII, p. 171.

Reassurance of Surplus Risks, *T.A.S.A.* Vol. VII, p. 299.

Group Valuation and Mortality Register, *T.A.S.A.* Vol. IX, p. 150.

Valuation and Distribution, *T.A.S.A.* Vol. X, p. 179.

- Reinstatement of Policy on Impaired Risk Holding Extended Term Insurance, *T.A.S.A.* Vol. xi, p. 296.
- Liberality of Modern Policies, *T.A.S.A.* Vol. xii, p. 175.
- Mortality Surplus and Its Distribution, *T.A.S.A.* Vol. xiv, p. 17.
- Should We Prepare a New Mortality Table? *T.A.S.A.* Vol. xvi, p. 8.
- Mortality Graphs, *T.A.S.A.* Vol. xviii, p. 311.
- Ambition and Social Service, *T.A.S.A.* Vol. xix, p. 211.
- Taxation, Especially in its Bearing on Life Insurance, *T.A.S.A.* Vol. xx, p. 1.
- State and National Enterprise, *T.A.S.A.* Vol. xxi, p. 1.
- Recent Mortality, *T.A.S.A.* Vol. xxiii, p. 408.
- Divergent Developments of Life Insurance in Britain and America, *T.A.S.A.* Vol. xxix, p. 51.
- Unemployment Relief, *T.A.S.A.* Vol. xxx, p. 90.
- Relationship of Initial Expenses and Selection to Valuation, *T.I.C.A.* Vol. iv, p. 955.
- Forfeiture Regulations in America, *T.I.C.A.* Vol. vi (2), p. 185.
- Mortality Trend in America: Its Influence on the Insurance of Under Average Lives, *T.I.C.A.* Vol. viii (2), p. 168.
- Relative Merits to Policyholders of Participating and Non-Participating Insurance, *T.I.C.A.* Vol. ix, p. 386.
- American Business and Unemployment Insurance, *T.I.C.A.* Vol. x, p. 191.

In addition, he made valuable contributions to the discussions that took place at the meetings of the Actuarial organizations which he regularly attended.

Mr Moir gave freely of his time and talents to public service. In 1912, he was a member of the actuarial committee which, without fee, devised the new pension plans for municipal employees and teachers in the City of New York. During the World War, he assisted in the preparation of the War Risk Insurance Act which covered the members of the United States Army and Navy and later was called upon to advise the United States Government in formulating a pension plan for the Civil Service.

His interest in his native country was keen and was expressed by his Presidency at various times of the British Schools and Universities Club, the St Andrew's Society and the Burns Society. In his civic activities we may mention that he was Consulting Actuary of the Church Pension Fund, a Trustee of the Hartford Seminary Foundation and a Director of the Morris Plan Insurance Society.

Henry Moir lived a full and useful life. He was devoted to his profession and to the insurance business. His enthusiasm for his work was conveyed to his associates. He influenced those who came in contact with him by his kind and helpful personality, and countless others through his books, papers and lectures. Few men have had so many warm friends on both sides of the Atlantic.

A. H.