

MEMOIR

PERCY MUTER

THE death at age 94 of Percy Muter, F.I.A., occurred at Wellington, New Zealand, on 20 July 1957. He was born on 27 May 1863, and was the first colonial candidate to attain the Fellowship of the Institute of Actuaries, under the scheme by which its examinations were extended to the colonies, commencing with 1892. By 1895 he had passed the four difficult examinations to qualify as a Fellow. It was authoritatively said at the time that the Fellowship 'corresponded to the higher honour degrees of the universities'. It is on record that his success in doing so unaided acted as an exemplar to Australian candidates, who at the time were facing with some apprehension the prospect of the final examinations confronting them. He became Actuary and Deputy Commissioner to the N.Z. Government Insurance Department, and was marked out to become Commissioner. He was also, *ipso facto*, Government Actuary: but failing eyesight compelled him to resign in 1922. He was ultimately afflicted with blindness. At the time of his death he was the oldest Fellow of the Institute by examination. Percy Muter was of a gentlemanly, modest, and unassuming disposition, manifesting great intellectual ability with a mind clear to the last.

A. T. T.