

## OBITUARY NOTICE

**The Late Mr. Gordon Douglas, F.F.A., F.I.A.**

By the sudden death of Mr. Gordon Douglas, which occurred on 20th March, the Faculty lost one of its most prominent Fellows, and one who had served it faithfully and well for nearly forty years.

Born in Edinburgh in 1857, Mr. Douglas, who was the son of Dr. Douglas, a leading educationist, began his career by entering the service of The Life Association of Scotland, and in that service he remained to the end. His ability and his fitness for promotion were soon recognised, and successively he was appointed Assistant Actuary in 1887, Actuary in 1891, and, on the retirement of Dr. Turnbull Smith, Manager in 1908. Further recognition came later when his brother-managers elected him Chairman of the Associated Scottish Life Offices. In other spheres he filled the position of a Director of the Commercial Bank of Scotland, and of a Manager of the Edinburgh Savings Bank; and he was an office-bearer in the Church of Scotland.

It was in 1884 that he became a Fellow of the Faculty. From that year onwards he maintained the closest association with it, and at one time or another he was called upon to fill virtually every post of responsibility and of honour that it was in the power of the Faculty to bestow, discharging the duties of each in a way that made the Faculty his debtor. In earlier days he filled for eight or nine years the onerous position of Honorary Secretary of the Scottish Section of the Committee on Mortality Investigation, which, in association with the Institute of Actuaries (of which he became a Fellow in 1887), enriched the actuarial world by the production of new Standard Tables invaluable to the profession and to Life Assurance Companies throughout the Empire. In later days he was called on to become a Member of the Actuarial Advisory Committee appointed by the National Health Insurance Joint Committee to advise them on actuarial matters arising out of the administration of the National Insurance Act; and further evidence of the value of his sound professional attainments was shown by the fact that he was frequently consulted by many important institutions and bodies requiring expert actuarial advice. For three years (1910-13) he was President of the Faculty, and he added to the prestige of that position by the admirable manner in which he administered its

affairs and by the personal interest which he showed in the individual members.

To his many friends Mr. Douglas appeared to be one of fortune's favourites. Step by step he was called on to ascend the ladder of prosperity; no reverse ever befell him; and such was his popularity that all who knew him rejoiced in his success, realising that it was due to his sterling merits and to those qualities of head and heart which carry their possessors far. The one great sorrow of his life came with the Great War, when his Son-in-Law, the Reverend Gavin Lang Pagan, Captain in the Royal Scots, was killed in action—a son after his own heart, who voluntarily sacrificed all for his Country and his God.

Of a happy and genial disposition, Mr. Douglas enjoyed an enviable popularity by no means confined to Scotland. Indeed it might be said that one of the greatest services which he unconsciously rendered was the promotion of good feeling and of kindly relationships between the insurance brethren of England and of Scotland. In this he was most happily aided by Mrs. Douglas and by his daughter, Mrs. Pagan, who made his home-life an ideal one, and his house a centre of generous hospitality.

Words of eulogy are not needed in the record of one whose passing called forth such expressions of sorrow and such tributes of respect; but to one who was privileged to have an intimate friendship of over forty years it may be permitted to say that Gordon Douglas stood for him as one whose character came as near to the ideal as the limits of our human nature permit. Our profession is to-day the poorer through the loss of one whose honoured career justifies the epitaph—*Sans peur et sans reproche*.

L. P. O.