

MEMOIRS

WILLIAM PENMAN

WILLIAM PENMAN, who died on 6 April 1970 at the age of 90, was in many ways a very remarkable man. His life exemplified to the full the efficacy of the 'prescription for a full and not unsatisfactory life' which he set out in his Presidential Address in 1942:

Work hard, play hard, and do something additional outside your ordinary work, preferably something for others, for which you are not paid.

Penman was born on 6 February 1880 and was educated at Alleyn's School. He entered the service of the Northern in 1897 and 9 years later joined the Atlas as Chief Actuarial Clerk. He was appointed Assistant Actuary in 1912, Actuary in 1914 and Actuary and Life Manager in 1924. He was Chairman of the Life Offices' Association in 1931 and 1932. He retired on 31 December 1945 and served as a Director of the Atlas until 1968.

He became a Fellow of the Institute in 1905 and served on the Council for 24 years between 1920 and 1945—as Honorary Secretary 1924–26, Vice-President 1926–30, Treasurer 1934–36 and President 1940–42. War conditions made it impossible for him to deliver his Presidential Address in 1940 and his valedictory address, delivered in May 1942 (*J.I.A.* 1942, 71, 353), gives some indication of the problems with which the Institute was faced during the first 2½ years of the war. He submitted two papers to the Institute—'On the Valuation of the Liabilities of an Insurance Company under its Employers' Liability Contracts' (*J.I.A.* 1910, 45, 101) and 'A Review of Investment Principles and Practice' (*J.I.A.* 1933, 64, 387). He continued to take a lively interest in the affairs of the Institute up to the time of his death and rarely missed a Sessional Meeting. He was an ardent supporter of the Actuaries' Club and the Gallio Club and was Chairman of the former 1937–39 and of the latter 1928–29. He attended almost every dinner and it was a great delight to him that he was honoured by both Clubs at the dinners following his 90th birthday.

Penman's activities on behalf of others, outside his ordinary work, were many and varied. As a young man he was an enthusiastic officer in the Boys' Brigade and in later life he gave many years of devoted service to the St John Ambulance Brigade.

The work of the Insurance Charities was very near to his heart and he served as a Committee member for 40 years. He was the first Honorary Actuary to the Charities and was President 1941–42 and again in 1945.

He served for many years in the City of London Special Constabulary of which he became Commandant—a position he occupied during the Second World War. In June 1939, in recognition of his services as Assistant Commandant he was awarded the M.B.E. Senior officers, past and present, of the Special Constabulary formed a Guard of Honour at his funeral.

Penman rendered invaluable service to the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation for almost 30 years. He joined the Corporation in 1940 and immediately became a member of the Executive and Finance Committees on which he served until the date of his death. He was Chairman of the Finance Committee from 1945 to 1964. He was a member of the General Purposes Committee from 1946 to 1969 and in 1946 he also joined the Committee of Management of the Royal Victoria Patriotic School. He took a very keen interest in the affairs of the School, taking many of the girls on tours of St Paul's Cathedral or entertaining them to tea and a swim at the Lansdowne Club.

During the years 1948 to 1950 he was Chairman of four working parties set up to advise the Minister of Health on the average times taken by dispensing pharmacists, dental practitioners, ophthalmic medical practitioners and ophthalmic opticians in the carrying out of their duties. This work, which involved sampling over a wide area of England, Wales and Scotland, he found of absorbing interest.

By virtue of association with his family's old-established business as paper merchants, Penman became a member of the Stationers' and Newspaper Makers' Company of which he was Master in 1955. He served for some years as a Governor of the Stationers' Company's School.

In retirement Penman devoted much of his time to the affairs of the British Home and Hospital for Incurables, serving for 18 years as a member of the Board of Management and of the House Committee and Finance Committee and as Chairman of the Board from 1960 to 1967. He also set aside practically every Friday afternoon for the Warlingham Over-60's Club of which he was for many years the Chairman. It was his practice to make several journeys before and after each meeting conveying members to and from the Club in the large Rolls Royce which he delighted to drive. This he continued to do until a few months before his death and he would often refer with affection and admiration to the fortitude of his 'old people' most of whom were about 20 years his junior!

In his Presidential Address Penman also said:

It is also a good thing . . . for a man to keep up his games and outdoor pursuits as long as possible. A healthy body is a great asset if a man be called upon to work hard and carry heavy responsibilities; it is also a great assistance towards a clear mind.

Here again he practised what he preached. As a young man he was a keen athlete and tennis player and it was only in middle life that he turned his attention to fencing, ski-ing, ice skating and horse riding. Until about 2 years before his death he rode his horse daily, if possible, and usually before breakfast. He ceased to do so only when the horse, which he had broken-in many years previously, was obliged to give up on account of old age!

William Penman worked hard, played hard and carried heavy responsibilities but, thanks to his rigorous self-discipline, he preserved until the day of his death the healthy body and the clear mind, the energy and the enthusiasm, which enabled him to live a full and active life so much of which was dedicated to the service of others. He will long be remembered by many with gratitude and affection for the man he was and for the things he did.

S. F. ISAAC

WILFRED PERKS

WILFRED PERKS was born on 3 October 1902 and died on 19 March 1970. This was an eventful period in history when changes were taking place in many aspects of society. Wilf was a participator who reacted to the world around him with curiosity in his mind and concern in his heart. And when it came to his own sphere of the actuary, he also reacted with great energy. The actuarial profession of 1970 is very different from 1930, both in what it does and in the way it thinks and Wilf was always a prominent influence in this evolution.

To those in the future who read his formal contributions to the *Journal* it will be apparent enough why he was given a gold medal—the honour he treasured above all others. To those who go further and read his many contributions to the discussions some