

Sir David Paulin.

SIR DAVID PAULIN, who passed away on 20th December 1930 at the age of eighty-three, was a son of Mr George Paulin, Rector of Irvine Academy. He commenced his business life as a Banker, but early developed a great interest in Life Assurance, which eventually led to his adopting the insurance profession for his career. In 1881, jointly with Mr James Sorley, also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, he founded the Scottish Life Assurance Company, of which he was Manager for the long period of thirty-seven years, retiring in 1918. The success of that Company is the best tribute to the energy and judgment of himself and of the colleagues that he gathered round him. Many honours in his profession came to him; he was President of the Actuarial Society and also of the Insurance Society of Edinburgh, and he filled for two years the position of Chairman of the Associated Scottish Life Offices. Knighthood was conferred on him in 1909, this being the first occasion in Scotland on which Royal recognition was given to insurance.

In the world of Science his interests lay mainly in Economics; from his earliest days he was given to the study of Statistics, and quite a number of papers came from his pen for the benefit of various Insurance, Economic, and Statistical Societies. At one time he was a forceful and attractive lecturer on Thrift, and his influence in pressing his teaching was widespread. All his life he took a very great interest in ecclesiastical affairs. He was prominent as a Churchman, having long been a leading layman of the United Free Church of Scotland. The cause of union with the Church of Scotland had in him a warm supporter, and it was a matter of great satisfaction to him when the cause of Union finally triumphed and the two churches became one. He was a strong promoter of temperance reform, and had a life-long connection with the Y.M.C.A., being at one time Treasurer of the National Council. A keen and successful man of business, he was generous to a degree in the support which he gave to every movement which in his opinion made for the well-being of his fellow-men.

In the days when the Royal and Ancient Game was not so popular as it is now, Sir David was an enthusiastic golfer, and many a one owed to him his initiation into the game. His country dwelling was at Machrihanish in Argyllshire, where he kept open house to such an extent as almost to make it a Clubhouse for the district.

Interesting as were some of his contributions to various learned Societies, it is not for these that he will be remembered, but for his chief characteristic—a genius for friendship. Full of years and honour, he has been gathered to his rest, leaving behind him troops of friends who will long cherish the memory of a very gracious personality.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1892.

L. P. O.