

ERNEST WOODS

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of another Past President of the Institute, Mr Ernest Woods, which occurred on 24th September last at his residence, "Childerstone," Liphook, the result of an attack of pleurisy and pneumonia—an attack which at first was not very severe and seemed to be subsiding, but, upon a sudden collapse taking place, the end came quickly but peacefully.

Mr Woods, who was born in November 1855, was the fourth son of the late Mr C. J. Woods, a solicitor practising at Godalming, and was educated at Guildford Grammar School and at Lausanne. While at Lausanne he acquired a thorough knowledge of the French language, which proved in after years of considerable service to him in the course of his work in the organization of the numerous International Congresses of Actuaries with which he was associated. In 1890 he married Miss Constance Jellicorse, who, with three sons, the eldest of whom served with distinction in the Great War, survives him.

On leaving school he joined the staff of the Westminster Fire Office, but, his inclinations leaning towards the "Life" side of insurance, he became an Associate of the Institute in 1874, when he passed the Preliminary Examination. Four years later, after tuition by the late Mr William Sutton, he succeeded in passing the Intermediate Examination, and entered the service of the Guardian Assurance Company as Actuarial Assistant, qualifying for the Fellowship in 1884. In October 1888, owing to the failing health of Mr Edward Cutbush, the actuary of the Westminster and General Life Assurance Association, and on the nomination of Mr Sutton—who was then President of the Institute—he was appointed assistant actuary to that association, succeeding Mr Cutbush as actuary on his death two years later. In March 1906 he successfully carried through the transfer of the business of the association to the Guardian Assurance Company, receiving the appointment of actuary to that company—a post which he held until his retirement in 1920.

Few actuaries have given their services so ungrudgingly and effectively to the Institute as Mr Woods. In 1893 he was first elected to the Council of the Institute, having three years previously joined the Actuaries' Club, and served continuously for the long period of 27 years. He was not long in making his personality felt on the council, serving as Hon. Secretary from 1898–1901, Vice-President 1903–6, and Hon. Treasurer 1907–8, and acting as Hon. Examiner on ten occasions. After standing aside in favour of Mr Schooling in 1912, he was finally elected President in 1914.

Among other honours falling to him was his election to the Fellowship of the Actuarial Society of America in 1898, this being followed by his appointment in 1902 as Hon. Correspondent for Great Britain on the Executive Council of the Permanent Committee for Actuarial Con-

gresses, a position which he held for a quarter of a century, and his election as Corresponding Member of "L'Association Royale des Actuaire Belges" in 1920. He was also a Patron of the London Insurance Institute, in which he took great interest.

His contributions to actuarial literature include a Paper on "Valuation of Endowment Assurance Policies for Solvency in Life Assurance Companies" and the Presidential Address which he delivered in 1914, published in the *J.I.A.*, as well as a paper on "Old Age and Workmen's Pensions in Great Britain and Ireland" which he contributed to the Fourth International Actuarial Congress held in New York in 1903.

A. W. T.