

## THE GOLDEN JUBILEES OF THE NORWEGIAN AND SWEDISH ACTUARIAL SOCIETIES

THE year 1904 saw the birth of Svenska Aktuarieforeningen and Den Norske Aktuarforening, each a Society formed so that actuaries might meet and discuss problems of professional interest. Actuaries had been trained at the Universities in Stockholm and Christiania (later to become Oslo). This form of training was to continue, and continues still to-day; it was the subject of a paper submitted to the Jubilee Assembly at Oslo.

The two Societies arranged to hold their Jubilee celebrations during the same week. Those at Oslo were on 23 and 24 August 1954, and those at Stockholm on 26 and 27 August.

The Institute was represented by its President, J. F. Bunford, and by Sir George Maddex, K.B.E. (a past President) and N. C. Turner (Joint Honorary Secretary); while the Faculty was represented by its President, K. K. Weatherhead, and by R. Lloyd Gwilt, C.B.E. (a past President).

At each capital city the proceedings opened with a meeting at which messages of congratulation and good wishes were conveyed from the various sister societies in other countries, and gifts, handsome and interesting in their diversity, were presented. Although English was (fortunately for us) the main language used, some speeches were made in one of the Scandinavian languages or in French. One message of good will was delivered in Japanese—this was the only one to which the President (Paul Qvale in Norway or Harald Cramér in Sweden) was unable to reply in the language of the message.

A novel and attractive idea of the Norwegians was to sweeten the proceedings at the opening meeting with a Grieg Sonata movement.

The representatives of other actuarial bodies brought with them gifts to mark the occasion; the variety of choice was most interesting, including landscape paintings (from Italy), symbolic porcelain animal figures (from Finland) and decorative Delft ware (from Holland). The Faculty gifts were a carved wooden ballot box to the Norwegians, and a set of silver quaighs for possible use as ashtrays to the Swedish Society.

The Institute's gift in each case was a silver salver made over 200 years ago, as it was understood that our Scandinavian friends were keenly appreciative of old English silver. The Norwegian one was made by Joseph Sanders of London in 1739, and bore the inscription:

Den Norske Aktuarforening  
from  
The Institute of Actuaries  
11th July 1954

The Swedish one was made by William Peaston of London in 1751, and bore the inscription:

Svenska Aktuarieforeningen  
from  
The Institute of Actuaries  
3rd March 1954

The paper for discussion at Oslo was by Prof. E. Sverdrup and was entitled *Scientific requirements in the actuarial profession*. The discussion was opened by Sir George Maddex, and K. K. Weatherhead took part.

The paper discussed at Stockholm was by H. Pravitz, and was entitled *Investigation of mortality from different causes of death as a basis for forecasting future trend*. This discussion was opened by R. Lloyd Gwilt, and J. F. Bunford took part.

The Jubilees were also marked by the publication of 'Histories'—the Norwegian written by K. Faerden and the Swedish by Dr K.-G. Hagstroem.

At each banquet there were about 250 persons present. An interesting feature of both banquets was that a woman Minister of the Crown was one of the principal speakers, and that she spoke in excellent English. In accordance with Scandinavian custom speeches were given between the courses. In each Capital the President gave a speech of welcome early in the banquet, replies for the guests being given in Oslo by P. Johansen (Denmark) and E. Marchand (Switzerland) and in Stockholm by J. F. Bunford and A. Junnila (Finland). The banquets were followed by dancing.

Both Presidents—P. Qvale and H. Cramér—spoke on all occasions (both business and social) with a facility and warmth which set the tone for a friendly and happy gathering.

Excursions were arranged to give the visitors a quick glimpse of some of the features of Oslo and Stockholm; notably the public buildings of varying character and interest, and the new large blocks of flats in Scandinavian style—each flat with its balcony and window-boxes gay with flowers. The tour of Oslo ended with a lunch in particularly delightful surroundings at the Yacht Club at Dronningen.

In Stockholm the main excursion was a coach drive to Gripsholm Castle, set on a tongue of land projecting into a lake. This for many years was the home of the Swedish Kings and there was much to see of great interest. At the final lunch the guests complied willingly with Marchand's invitation to sing their thanks to their hosts.

The programme allowed only a little time for personal sightseeing before the private dinner parties arranged for the final evenings. At these pleasantly intimate functions, where various nationalities were represented, we learnt more of the customs of the Norwegians and Swedes and of their great gift for hospitality and friendliness.

'Say it with flowers' is a golden rule, particularly in Norway, and we were greeted in our hotels with flowers in our rooms, both from the Societies and from some of those who knew us before. To meet these old friends and their wives was a great pleasure and to make new friendships was one of the outstanding benefits of these memorable occasions.

J. F. B.