

WILLIAM ARTHUR WORKMAN

THE career of any man who commences at the bottom and reaches the top is interesting, but it is particularly so to those others who follow the profession in which he has made his mark. Workman, who qualified as an actuary by examination in 1902, was essentially a business man. His faculties were those making for a successful career in the City. He would have been equally successful in most branches of commerce. He was possessed of a high degree of intelligence, and had a capacity to see a set of circumstances broadly and as a whole. He could pursue a course without discouragement in spite of obstacles and follow it to a successful conclusion. Such men are met with in most walks of City life: they are not primarily or generally 'intellectuals', but they have a grasp of essentials and they include in their make-up a high sense of business morality and an integrity which earns the confidence of their fellows. They have in no small degree the incentive of personal ambitions and a determination to make a success of the institution to which they happen to be attached. Such was Workman.

No original contributions were submitted by him at Institute Meetings. He wrote no textbooks and seldom took part in discussions of actuarial subjects, although he did indeed serve on the Council from 1916 to 1921 and 1927 to 1932. None the less, he has left material evidence of his constructive ability which might well be the envy of actuaries whose names have appeared more frequently in the pages of the *Journal*. During the most active portion of his life, from 1909 to the date of his death in February 1956, his interest and energies were primarily devoted to the institution of which he was the Chief Officer and later a member of the Board.

No doubt Workman benefited to the full by his early actuarial study and training, first while in the service of the Imperial Life Office, and then with the old Equitable, before he joined in an official position the staff of the Legal and General in 1909. The last-mentioned office started to transact fire and accident insurance after the 1914-18 War, and Workman became General Manager of the Society almost from the outset of these departments. He was not the first actuary to handle capably a composite insurance business, and he adopted the approved method of leaving to experts the technical side of the business, delegating to them the functions appropriate to their departments, reserving, however, to himself the broad administrative problems as to time, place and balance of expansion of the various sides of the business.

As his personality became known in the world of general insurance he took his place, almost without effort, in the circle of men who formally and informally discuss their common insurance problems. In 1933-34 he became Chairman of the British Insurance Association, having already served as Chairman of the Life Offices' Association (1929 and 1930). In consequence of his association with general insurance he was drawn into the scheme of education sponsored by the Insurance Institute of London. He encouraged his younger staff to take the examinations of the Chartered Insurance Institute by arranging for the payment of fees and the grants of bonuses to successful candidates. His work in the field of education received recognition by his election as President of the Insurance Institute of London for the year 1931-32. During his term of office he was an ardent advocate for the building of the headquarters of the London Insurance Institute and the Chartered Insurance Institute in

Aldermanbury. Ten years later he was elected President of the Chartered Insurance Institute itself. His year of office, 1941-42, was rather a barren one because during the War much of the work of that Institute was suspended and no annual conference was held.

His connexion with general insurance education was a good influence and caused some actuaries to take a wider view of their field of activities. It is worth noting that Sir William Elderton was his successor in the Presidency of the Chartered Insurance Institute.

While he made his business and his career therein of first importance, that did not absorb his entire energies. During the active portion of his life he was a keen golfer and seldom missed those weekend golf meetings in which insurance men have delighted. In such gatherings he was popular: he was a good mixer and it was only natural that he found himself elected to the chair of the two senior actuarial dining clubs—the Actuaries and the Gallio.

Workman had no gift of rhetoric but he could get over what he had to say without the frequent use of notes, and in an ordered manner, drawing on an excellent memory for the headings to which he wished to refer. He delighted in hospitality and was an excellent host to those friends who had the pleasure of dining with him at his clubs, the Union and the Reform. Unfortunately many of his personal friends who had travelled the road with him had left it before him, so that in the last few years their absence and his own ill health limited him, but not unhappily, to his home circle of wife, daughter and grandson.

H. E. R.

PERCY CHARLES CRUMP

By the death on Friday, 25 May 1956, of Percy Charles Crump, O.B.E., F.I.A., the insurance world and the Institute of Actuaries lost one of their most worthy members.

Crump entered the service of the Prudential Assurance Company in 1895. He qualified as a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries in 1909, and in the course of a distinguished career became Joint Secretary of his Company in 1931. He remained Joint Secretary until his retirement in 1942 when he was elected a Director, and served on the Board until he retired through ill health in 1953.

He was awarded the O.B.E. for his services in connexion with the American Dollar Securities Committee during the First World War. This Committee was responsible for the mobilization and management of securities valued at thousands of millions of dollars. In 1928 he contributed a paper to the Institute of Actuaries on the financial conditions during and after the 1914-18 War as they affected life assurance companies.

These brief biographical details, however, give no clue to the character or stature of the man himself. It was not in Crump's nature to court publicity. A true assessment of him as a person, therefore, can only be made by those who knew him well, and as one who was intimately associated with him for very many years I am, perhaps, as well qualified as any to make this assessment. I can best present a picture of him by quoting a couplet by Alexander Pope, and describe him as—

By nature honest, by experience wise,
Healthy by temperament and by exercise.