

## PRESENTATION OF AN INSTITUTE SILVER MEDAL TO MR ROLAND DAVID CLARKE

[The Institute of Actuaries, 27 October 1980]

**The President (Mr A. R. N. Ratcliff):** Our Silver Medal recognizes services of especial importance to the actuarial profession and the record of previous awards demonstrates that the regard attaching thereto is scarcely less than that of the Gold Medal.

Roland Clarke's earliest work was associated with the theory of probability and its practical application. His paper—jointly with Mr P. H. Hammon—to the ill fated 1940 International Congress was followed by a paper published in *J.I.A.* in 1946 and a paper to the Institute on “The Concept of Probability” in 1953 which was awarded a prize from the Messenger and Brown Prize Fund.

The first of three papers recording Roland Clarke's pioneering work on the Mortality of Impaired Lives was submitted both the Institute and to the Faculty and was awarded prizes by both bodies. His practical as well as his theoretical work in the field of mortality has been of outstanding importance to the actuarial profession and he served as Secretary to the Executive Committee of the CMI Bureau for over twenty years.

Other papers published by the 18th International Congress, the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society* and the Eugenics Society have extended his work to a wider audience.

If, again, I may be permitted a word of personal appreciation to Roland Clarke, it is for his seminal paper to our Centenary Assembly in 1948 “A Bio-actuarial approach to forecasting rates of mortality”. This paper was awarded a Centenary prize at the time, but its relevance and influence has, if anything, increased over the intervening years. I have very great pleasure in conveying to Roland Clarke Council's award of a Silver Medal in recognition of the especial importance of his services to our profession.

**Mr R. D. Clarke:** As no doubt you will all appreciate, I am feeling somewhat overwhelmed and perhaps rather dazed. I can only express my most sincere gratitude to you, Mr President, and to the Council for the honour that you have conferred upon me.

All of us in this Institute know that we are debtors to our profession. We are also debtors to those who have gone before. This has been brought home to me by looking at the list of Gold and Silver Medallists. Sir William Elderton was the architect of the Continuous Mortality Investigation with which I was associated for twenty-two years. William Phillips undertook research on the Curve of Deaths, which inspired the paper which I submitted to the Centenary Assembly in 1948. Wilfred Perks built upon the foundations of Gompertz and Makeham in

the construction of more complex graduation formulae for the curve of the rate of mortality. He also made substantial contributions to the literature of probability, and his wise guidance was of great value to me when I wrote my Institute paper on that subject. Bernard Benjamin illumined the path linking medical and actuarial statistics—a path along which I have endeavoured to tread over the years. And throughout my actuarial career I have been privileged to learn much from the wisdom and sound practical commonsense of Frank Redington and Ronald Skerman.

Among the Silver Medallists, Maurice Ogborn was a tower of strength on the Joint Mortality Committee over very many years. I had the honour to work with Herbert Haycocks for all too brief a period before his untimely death. Bobbie Beard's profound researches were also invaluable to the Joint Mortality Committee; and Peter Cox has played a significant part in putting actuaries on the demographic map, not least through his assiduous leadership of the Demography Study Group, from which I learned a great deal.

There are three other actuaries whom I should like to mention. Richard Gwilt was my first Chairman of the Joint Mortality Committee and his leadership was indeed an inspiration. From Ed. Lew there has come over the years a veritable cornucopia of information and guidance from the other side of the Atlantic. I should particularly like to express my appreciation to Rodney Barnett, with whom I enjoyed over fifteen years of unbroken harmony and co-operation within the C.M.I. Bureau.

Finally, I must remember the medical profession. To Dr T. W. Preston my debt is incalculable, for it was he who designed the medical side of the investigation into the mortality of impaired lives on which I have had the privilege, from time to time, to report. There are other names that could be mentioned, but time does not allow. I conclude with the hope that co-operation between the medical and actuarial professions may continue to develop and flourish in the years that lie ahead.