

MEMOIRS

VICTOR WILLIAM TYLER

Victor Tyler, who died at the age of 98 on 3 March this year following a fall at his home in Arundel, was not only the most senior Fellow in years of age at the time of his death but also the joint senior, with one other, by year of attaining his Fellowship (1919). Apart from failing eyesight in the last few years, he remained in remarkably good health to the end of his life.

He was born on 21 June 1887 in London. From Bancroft's, he joined the Alliance in 1905 at a Branch Office in London and was transferred to Head Office some three years later.

The actuarial atmosphere at the Alliance at that time may well have been stimulating. A few years earlier, whilst with the Alliance, Lidstone had produced the series of Papers which made his name, and he had been succeeded at the Alliance by Levine when he moved to the Equitable in 1905. However, there were some formidable obstacles in the path of actuarial students in those days. Indeed, for the later parts of the examinations there were no officially recommended text-books; there was not even an officially recommended course of reading! In spite of the acknowledged difficulties, by 1913 Tyler had passed three out of the four parts required for the Fellowship, and after service in the Army during the war he completed the examinations when they were held again in 1919.

From 1919 to 1922 he was Honorary Treasurer of the Students' Society.

From 1929 to 1934 he was on the Board of Examiners.

He was elected to the Council for the first time in 1930 and was a Vice-President from 1944 to 1947. He was the Council's ex officio representative on the Committee of the Students' Society from 1938 to 1939 and again from 1943 to 1948.

He was for a time Editor of the Consolidation of Reading series, a notable effort by the Students' Society to help those studying for the later parts of the examinations.

In 1922, with Hosking Tayler he produced the first edition of 'Life Assurance from Proposal to Policy' which, in its various editions, occupied a place in the recommended reading for so many generations of students studying for the Life Assurance section of the examinations of the C.I.I.

Tyler was a Founder Member of the Fellowship Club, its first Honorary Secretary, and President in 1931. He was elected to Gallio in 1931 and to the Actuaries' Club in 1943.

In 1930, following the appointment of Levine as General Manager and Simmonds as Actuary, Tyler was appointed Assistant Actuary. He retired from the Alliance in 1947.

Tyler approached life in retirement with his customary enthusiasm. He travelled widely, and at home he embarked on some considerable commitments.

His fine old house at Pulborough was now too large for his needs and he set about the conversion of a mediaeval barn, which belonged to it, into something smaller. The enterprise was most successful and gave him great satisfaction.

He played a major part in arranging for much-needed structural alterations to be made to the Church at Pulborough. For good measure, he searched for and found a suitable replacement for the old organ, and raised the necessary funds to buy and install it.

An active Churchman, he was a Churchwarden at Pulborough for twenty years and served for many years on the Diocesan Board of Finance.

As in his business life, in retirement he continued for many years to take an active part in affairs and to give sound advice and practical help wherever he could.

In 1914 he married Elsie Woodgate. They had three sons, each of whom distinguished himself in his own field, and a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren. Shortly after he and Elsie celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary Elsie, sadly, died. Thankfully, his family was a close-knit one, and all his sons lived near him.

Tyler lived a long, active, fruitful life. He made a valuable contribution to his profession over many years and will be remembered by all who knew him for his unflinching interest and helpfulness.

A. E. TINCKLER

WILLIAM FRANK MARPLES

William Frank Marples died in San Diego, California, USA, in October 1985. He was born in Birmingham on 14th February 1907 and educated at King Edward's School, where his father, Percy Morris Marples, was Senior Mathematics Master. P. M. Marples, in addition to teaching, became an AIA and produced a considerable supply of mathematical students from King Edward's School to go into the Profession. It was not, therefore, surprising when W. F. Marples, on leaving school, joined the Britannic Assurance Co. Ltd. to take the actuarial examinations and later qualified as a Fellow in 1935. He was very well known indeed to actuaries of an earlier generation since, apart from lectures at Staple Inn, there was virtually no actuarial tuition and his father set up 'The Marples Classes' to provide a series of correspondence courses for students taking the examinations. On the death of his father in 1932, W. F. Marples took over 'The Marples Classes' and very quickly became known to all the students who were taking the examinations at that time. In the Session 1938-39 the Actuarial Tuition Service was established under the joint control of the Institute and the Faculty of Actuaries, 'The Marples Classes' were taken over and W. F. Marples became Secretary of the Service. A much larger panel of tutors was then appointed to set to work with the preparation of a completely revised set of lessons, notes, texts and solutions.

In 1940, W. F. Marples resigned from the Tuition Service and was succeeded by H. W. Haycocks. He then joined Duncan C. Fraser in Liverpool as a Partner, to form the firm of Duncan C. Fraser & Co. and continued in that capacity until 1950, when he emigrated to the United States and joined the firm of George B. Buck in New York. He worked for a number of firms of consulting actuaries in the United States and was still in practice at the time of his death.

He submitted two papers to the Institute, namely 'An Analysis of a Pension Fund' in JIA 73, and 'The Effect of Changed Economic Conditions and State Insurance on Private Pension Fund Benefits' in JIA 74. He also contributed a paper to the Faculty jointly with myself, entitled 'Pension Funds: Some Practical Points', which appears in TFA 19.

He was a man of very considerable enthusiasm and energy in everything in which he was involved. He had a happy family life with his wife Norah, who survives him, and four children.

GEOFFREY HEYWOOD