

MEMOIRS

ROBERT WALLACE STURGEON

ROBERT WALLACE STURGEON died on 20 August 1966, aged 77. He became a Fellow of the Institute in 1915, served on the Council for 13 years between 1933 and 1947, and was a Vice-President from 1942 to 1946. For 21 years from 1926 he was Actuary of the Royal, and before his retirement in 1952 he was one of three chief executives of the Royal group.

Sturgeon was educated at Liverpool Institute, a school that has made a notable contribution to the actuarial profession, and joined the service of the Royal in Liverpool under D. C. Fraser. When the National Health Insurance scheme was started in 1912, Sturgeon, encouraged no doubt by Fraser, joined the group under A. W. Watson that was later to become the Government Actuary's Department and he remained in Government service until 1924 when he returned to the Royal in anticipation of Fraser's retirement. In 1943 Sturgeon added general management responsibilities to those of Actuary and he relinquished the appointment of Actuary in 1947. When he retired in 1952 he was one of a triumvirate of General Managers which shared the top executive responsibilities of the Royal group and which included C. F. Trustam.

During the 1930s Sturgeon took a leading part on behalf of the British life offices in the negotiations leading to new insurance laws in India. He was appointed by the Indian Government to be a member of the Advisory Committee on Indian insurance legislation, and made two visits to India in the course of this work. In February 1939 he submitted a paper to the Institute, entitled 'The Indian Insurance Act 1938'. From 1942 to 1944 he was Chairman of the Foreign Committee (as it was then called) of the Life Offices' Association, and from 1947 to 1949 Chairman of the Special India and Pakistan Committee of the British Insurance Association.

I have little doubt that Sturgeon found his greatest satisfaction in the 'official' world. He used to speak with nostalgia of his Government service and especially of his work for the Ministry of Shipping during the First World War; he also derived considerable pleasure from his contacts with the Government of India, and with the U.K. Government during the framing of the Assurance Companies Act, 1946, in which he played a part behind the scenes.

Outside his work, too, Sturgeon was an active man, playing football at school and subsequently cricket of a high local standard. In later life he played golf, keenly but not well, and he and his wife specially enjoyed the theatre. He was a Liverpool magistrate for a long period and served on the Council of Liverpool University for 6 years. The last years of his service and the early years of his retirement were clouded by the long disabling illness of his wife who predeceased him. He subsequently remarried, and is survived by his second wife.

J. M. BEATTIE

EWART KINGSLEY READ

EWART KINGSLEY READ died on the 28 March 1967 at the age of 68. He was born on 29 April 1898, and was educated at Christ's Hospital which he left in 1915, having become a Deputy Grecian for Mathematics. He joined the Legal and General Assurance Society in August 1915 but was hardly settled there before he was called for war service which lasted from 1916 to 1919. He joined the Essex Regiment but later was commissioned and attached to the 16th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.