

MEMOIRS

RALPH CHARLES BRADLEY LANE

RALPH LANE died suddenly on 23 February 1978 at the age of 69 while taking the chair at a Board Meeting of one of his companies. He had been warned that to continue to work as hard as he did would be to court a cardiovascular accident. But for Ralph, work and a full life were synonymous and he deliberately chose to ignore the warning. He could never have been content to 'tick over' as the price of survival.

Ralph was born in England but his family emigrated to Australia when he was only five years old and he was educated there, first at Melbourne Grammar School and later at Melbourne University. He joined the Institute of Actuaries as a student with the A.M.P. in Sydney in 1934 and came to the United Kingdom in 1936, still as an employee of the A.M.P. He qualified as F.I.A. in 1937 and for a brief period worked for Noble Lowndes. In the Second World War he served with REME and obtained the rank of Captain. At the end of hostilities he set himself up in sole practice as a consultant. Much later he formed the partnership of Lane, Clark and Peacock and remained the senior partner until his death. He was also a Director of many companies and in particular was Chairman of IGIS Ltd, an industrial holding company which included in its numerous subsidiaries, General Asphalte Holdings, Ltd, Alden and Mowbray Ltd and Throgmorton Management Ltd. He had earlier served on the boards of three of the smaller insurance companies. He was one of the group who formed the Association of Consulting Actuaries. He was a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society, the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, the Institute of Pension Fund Management and the Royal Zoological Society. He was a member of the Gardeners Company.

Ralph often gave the impression of being aggressive—an entirely false impression. He did love to argue vociferously (he was an early member of the Woolgatherers Club—an actuarial discussion group). It was his way of testing his own opinions as much as those of others with whom he differed. But if he was convinced that he was wrong he accepted graciously. He was a gracious and considerate colleague, for all his bluff exterior, and a very staunch friend. Although he loved argument he could be a sympathetic listener to a friend in need of counsel and his advice was always well considered. He abhorred insincerity or dishonesty of any kind and could never be accused of it himself. He loved to be surrounded by friends and as a party host he was in his element. Ralph Lane was an actuary of high skill and judgement and his professional conduct was impeccable. He sometimes disagreed with the line but never stepped out of it; whether by example or instruction, neither did any member of his partnership. He was a warm and strong character such as the Institute and the City can ill-afford to lose. Above all he was a friend who will always be remembered with great affection

B. BENJAMIN