

*M. Henri Adan.*

**ALTHOUGH**, in the Report of the Institute, which was presented to the Annual General Meeting, held on 3 June last, mention was made of the loss sustained by the actuarial profession through the death, on 9 May, of M. Henri Adan, President of the Association of Belgian Actuaries, it is fitting that a more personal notice should appear in this *Journal*.

M. Adan was born in Brussels, on 1 February 1830, and when he had completed his preliminary studies he entered for the Belgian Bar, in the University of Brussels, and took his degree of *Doctor Juris* on 12 August 1852. He, however, did not follow the legal profession, but, in 1855, accepted the post of Secretary to the Royale Belge Assurance Company, of which he became General Manager in 1864.

M. Adan was a prolific writer on assurance questions, principally on those connected with the life and the accident branches, and he did much to spread sound views on these subjects on the European Continent. His early training caused him to regard in their legal aspect the questions on which he wrote, and a good example of this characteristic is to be found in the valuable paper he contributed to the London Congress of 1898, entitled "On Legislation of various kinds relating to the Life Assurance Contract from the International point of view." The same remark applies to his writings on accident insurance, and, on account of his practical as well as of his legal knowledge, he exercised a great and beneficent influence on the legislation of his native country.

We cannot here give a list of the papers and reports which came from his pen, and, even were we to do so, no great advantage would be gained, as they would not be accessible to readers in the United Kingdom. He began to write early, but perhaps in his later years he did his best work, taking an active part in various Government Commissions appointed to prepare the way for insurance legislation, and in International Congresses convened on private initiative. Those members of the Institute of Actuaries who attended the first International Actuarial Congress, held in Brussels in 1895, will remember his commanding though genial presence, and the active share he took in that gathering.

M. Adan was elected a Corresponding Member of the Institute of Actuaries so long ago as 10 November 1868; he was the first President of the Association of Belgian Actuaries, and was

elected a Corresponding Member of the Institute of French Actuaries in 1897.

It is, perhaps, worthy of note that M. George H. Adan, the son of the subject of this brief memoir, has succeeded his father as General Manager of the Royale Belge, and has been elected a Corresponding Member of the Institute of Actuaries.

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