

he was advising. To such attainments can be attributed, in no small degree, the brilliant success of his official career. It is not proposed in this memoir to give a history of his Insurance appointments. It is sufficient to say, as an indication of his outstanding ability, that, at the unprecedentedly early age of nineteen, he became Assistant Actuary of the "Marine and General", and that he ultimately rose to the distinguished position of chairman of one of our largest composite companies—the "Phœnix".

Ryan's own words can best express his opinion of the training afforded by the Institute. They are taken from his Presidential Address in 1910. "Looking back upon a career of varied responsibility, I have never ceased to feel deeply grateful to our Institute or to appreciate the immense value of the sound anchorage which its educational training provides, not only in the special department of insurance with which we more particularly deal, but in other branches falling outside our curriculum." And again—"It is not unlikely, moreover, that actuaries may come in future to be employed in Fire, Accident or Marine Companies or Departments, in all of which branches the desirability of skilled statistical methods and a knowledge of the laws of probability are being more and more appreciated." It may be mentioned that several men with actuarial qualifications serving under Ryan were promoted by him to responsible positions outside the Life Department of the Company.

One cannot conclude this notice without reference to personal qualities which endeared Ryan to those who had the privilege of serving under him. Amongst these were his keen sense of humour—possibly attributable to his Irish origin—his accessibility, his readiness with friendly advice and his encouragement of initiative. Several men, who have since attained distinguished positions with other Companies, served in their early years under him, and he always followed with kindly interest their subsequent careers. He will be held in affectionate remembrance by a very wide circle of friends and former colleagues.

A. T. W.

EDVARD PHRAGMEN

WE much regret to record the recent death of Professor Edvard Phragmén.

Phragmén had in his early years taught at Stockholm University and had published various papers in mathematical journals. He then became connected with insurance and when the Swedish Actuarial Society was started in 1904 he was much interested and became its second president, a position he retained for many years until his resignation in 1934.

Phragmén wrote little during the past twenty-five years but his influence was great and he encouraged others with ideas and sympathetic advice. He was never afraid of holding or expressing an opinion but did not allow differences of view to interfere with personal friendships.

He was one of the presidents of the International Congress at Stockholm and English actuaries will remember his refined, intellectual face—admirably portrayed in the last number of the *Skandinavisk Aktuarietidskrift*—his quiet efficiency and courtesy.

Phragmén's early mathematical work on the theory of functions, Tchebycheff's polynomial etc. will not be forgotten, but in actuarial circles he built a more personal memorial for himself as the guide, philosopher and friend to the Swedish Actuarial Society. W. P. E.