

Henry Moir, F.F.A., F.I.A., F.A.S.

BY the death of Henry Moir in Rochester, in the State of New York, on June 8, 1937, the assurance world lost one of its most eminent personalities. Born in 1871, he entered the service of the Scottish Life Assurance Company, Limited, in Edinburgh in 1886. Fifteen years later he accepted the post of actuary of a life assurance office in New York. Although he spent the rest of his life in the United States, by frequent visits to this country and by constant correspondence he never lost touch with his many friends here. In 1923 he became President of the United States Life Insurance Company, and in October 1936, after fifty full and active years of life assurance work, he gave up this position for the less onerous one of Chairman of the Finance Committee. His wife, whom he married in 1899, was a daughter of the late A. T. Niven, a well-known chartered accountant of Edinburgh. She survives him, along with their son and two daughters.

It is impossible in a brief sketch to do justice to Henry Moir's strenuous career—his international reputation as an actuary, his powerful influence on the life assurance business in the United States, his public services, his wide private philanthropies, his educational work, and his warm-hearted interest in the younger members of his profession. By dint of concentration and method he was able to get through a surprising amount of work. He worked hard but he also played hard. His methods of relaxation also reflected his versatility. In his younger days he was a keen volunteer in the Queen's Edinburgh Rifles. He was a capital golfer, an enthusiastic gardener, a collector of rare books and first editions, a lover of Scottish song and story, a great devotee of Robert Burns, and no mean poet himself. No memoir of him would be complete unless it laid stress on his sterling integrity of character. He could be embarrassingly frank in his criticisms, and he was stern in his denunciation of anything that could not stand the acid test of honesty and fair dealing. Perhaps his most prominent characteristic, however, was his singularly attractive personality. His charm of manner, his genius for friendship and service, his wide culture, his almost boyish enjoyment of a game, were qualities which, joined to his solid worth, endeared him to his friends in a measure to which few men can attain. He possessed the deep religious convictions and the kindly humour of the Scot. "In quietness and confidence shall be your strength"; no phrase could more fittingly epitomise a singularly useful and highly honourable career.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society in 1929.

H. W. B.