

Death of Mr. J. Hill Williams.

IT is with more than the usual expressions of regret that we have to announce the death of the much-esteemed and respected Actuary to the English and Scottish Law Life Assurance Office, and the termination of a long, successful and unblemished professional career. For nearly forty years the name of Mr. John Hill Williams has been known and honoured in the actuarial world.

In the year 1846 Mr. Hill Williams was appointed to succeed his brother as Actuary and Secretary to the Assurance Society, the affairs of which he continued to direct until the very day of his death. Previously to holding that appointment he had served in the Honourable East India Company's Navy, from which he retired when that Company first began making reductions and changes, and then spent some time both in this country and in Ireland engaged in engineering and other scientific pursuits. In 1856 he also became Actuary to the Law Reversionary Society, succeeding in that post the distinguished mathematician, Professor Sylvester.

Mr. Hill Williams was one of the original members of the

Institute of Actuaries, which was founded in 1848. He was for a long time a member of the Council, filling also in succession the offices of Honorary Secretary and Vice-President. Upon the death of the late Mr. Tucker, in 1875, he attained the important position of President, and during his tenure of this office he ably maintained the authority of the chair, and fulfilled the responsible and often difficult duties of the post in a way that secured for him the regard, at the same time that it commanded the respect, of the members of the Institute. In the words of the present President, when referring at the sessional meeting in November last to the lamented death of Mr. Hill Williams, "He was wise in council. "He occupied the presidential chair with singular dignity, "discretion and courtesy."

Although he was not a frequent contributor to the literary transactions of the Institute, his valuable translations from the works of contemporary German authors on professional and cognate subjects will obtain for him a grateful remembrance from the student of insurance subjects, and will remain as a permanent evidence of his desire to promote the primary aim of the Institute—the advancement of actuarial learning. He also devoted considerable attention to the question of the assessment of the property and income tax, and was called upon to give evidence before the Parliamentary Committee on Income Tax in 1851.

For some years past, Mr. Hill Williams, on account of failing health, was prevented from taking so active and prominent a part as previously in the proceedings of the Institute, but nevertheless, his sudden death, on the 16th November last, at the age of 72, has caused in the front rank of the profession a loss which will be long and greatly felt. Endowed as he was with scientific aptitude of no mean order, and thoroughly conversant with the multifarious duties of the profession and the complicated business of which the actuary undertakes the direction, he was ever ready with unfailing kindness to impart to others in all departments of the profession, the advice and assistance which his sound knowledge, wide experience, and many attainments so eminently qualified him to render.

The Council of the Institute has placed upon record its estimation of the high personal qualities of Mr. Hill Williams, its appreciation of his valuable services, and its sense of the loss which by his death has fallen on his friends and the profession

in a resolution, from which we have been permitted to make the following extract :

“ Entering the profession later in life than usual
“ * * * * he adorned it by the variety of his attain-
“ ments, by the dignity and courtesy of his demeanour, and
“ the integrity of his life.”
