

OBITUARY NOTICE.

Dr. Ferdinand Hahn.

THE President (Mr. Frank B. Wyatt), at the commencement of the Sessional Meeting of the Institute of Actuaries, held on 17 December last, referred in the following terms to the death of Dr. Ferdinand Hahn, the President of the Fifth International Congress of Actuaries held in Berlin in September last :

The President said that before proceeding to the business of the evening he had a sad announcement to make. No doubt many of the members had read with regret in the papers of the death of Dr. Hahn, the President of the German Federation for Insurance Science, and of the last International Congress held in Berlin, which was attended by several of the members of the Institute. That Congress was the first opportunity the members had had of making the acquaintance of Dr. Hahn ; they went there as strangers, but when they left at the end of a week they felt no longer strangers. Dr. Ferdinand Hahn was an exceedingly genial man, of distinguished position and of great legal and scientific attainments, and he was greatly respected by

the Society of which he was the head. A letter was being sent to Professor Manes (General Secretary of the Society), and the permission of the members was asked that that letter should convey the sympathy of the members of the Institute with the family of Dr. Hahn in the loss they had sustained, and also sympathy with the German Society at the loss they had incurred by the death of their President.

It was unanimously agreed that a resolution of sympathy should be forwarded.

We are indebted to Dr. A. Manes, the General Secretary of the Congress, for particulars kindly supplied as to the career of the late Dr. Hahn, of which the following is a brief abstract :

Dr. Hahn devoted his youth and early manhood to the study of jurisprudence, and, turning his attention to Insurance matters, he ultimately became General Manager of two important Insurance Companies in Magdeburg, and was also on the Council of several other Insurance Companies and Banks. He was President of Associations of Rail, Transport, and Accident Insurance Companies, in the founding and development of which he took a considerable share. Dr. Hahn was member successively of the Prussian, and of the Imperial, Insurance Councils. The German Federation for Insurance Science was established in 1899, largely on his initiative, with an inclusive scope which covered, not only actuarial theory and practice, but also the legal and medical study and work closely associated therewith. Dr. Hahn likewise took a large and important part in the arrangement and details of the Fifth International Congress for Insurance Science, and of the Fourth International Congress for Insurance Medicine, held simultaneously at Berlin, in September 1906, and the unequalled success of the Congress, and his unanimous election as President, were regarded by him as the zenith of his career. His energy and versatility are sufficiently evidenced by the above enumeration, but in addition he possessed high literary capacity, the best results of which, however, are hidden in reports and memoirs, mostly of a private nature. His success in life was due to a strong personality, characterized by a keen readiness to grasp new ideas; and whilst he was essentially practical, he had yet a deep respect for theory. Dr. Ferdinand Hahn passed away on 12 December 1906, in the 62nd year of his age.
