

John Edward Touche, M.I.Mech.E.

JOHN EDWARD TOUCHE was born in 1855. He was the son of an Edinburgh banker, and was the grandson and great-grandson of the Scottish manse. He served the usual apprenticeship as a mechanical engineer with a Leith firm, thereafter practically all his professional career was spent abroad, at first in Australia and New Zealand, but later in the United States of America, he being for twenty-five years connected with the Otis Steel Company of Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr Touche had a highly successful career as a mechanical engineer, and was a Member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. Eventually he was able to retire from the active pursuits of his profession and settle in his native city and devote himself to other interests which had occupied his spare time while he was still actively engaged in important engineering projects. He was particularly interested in geographical problems and especially in maps and their production. Through his generosity in providing the necessary funds, the Royal Scottish Geographical Society was able to publish on an extensive scale in 1934—the year of the Society's jubilee—*The Early Maps of Scotland*, a very important piece of work and of great value to Scottish geographical records.

Mr Touche had travelled widely, and his long residence in the United States of America had given him an exceptionally intimate knowledge of the development of engineering in all its branches in that country. He maintained a deep interest until his death in modern methods of the manufacture of steel alloys. He was a man with wide interests, and always took an active share in the scientific and religious life of Edinburgh. He was extremely generous and gave freely from the fortune which he had accumulated by his hard work in his earlier years to any good cause brought to his notice. He was a man of great kindness of character, with all the old-fashioned courtesy so characteristic of the period of his active career. He was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1935. He died on June 9, 1938, at his residence in Blackford Road, Edinburgh.

T. H. B.