

# JOURNAL

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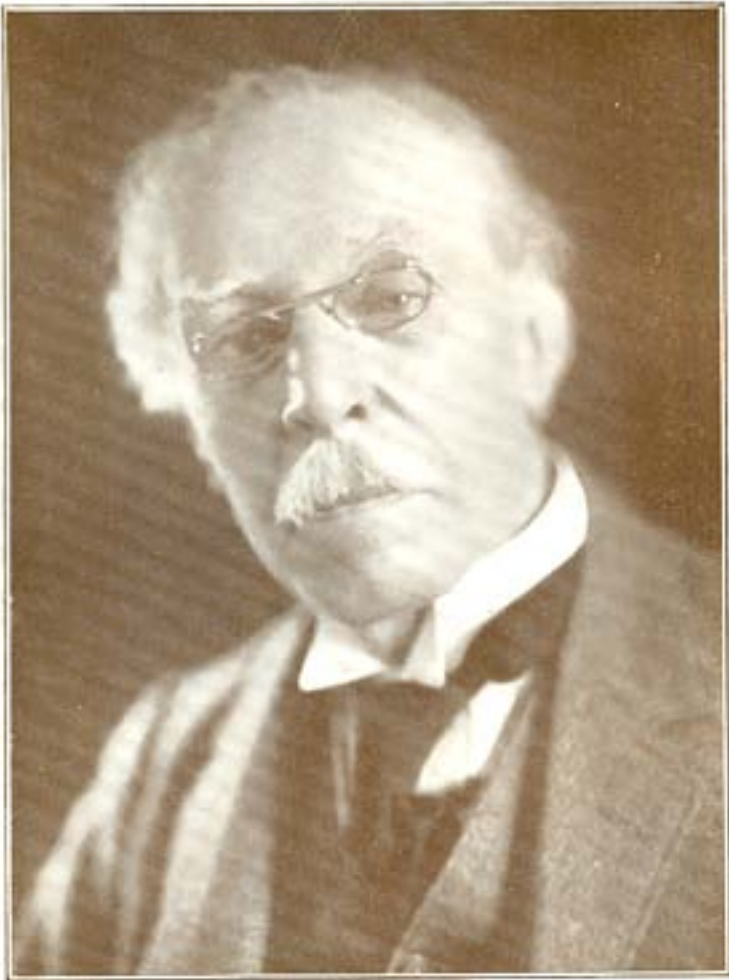
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### Memoir.

*Mr. Samuel George Warner.*

THE announcement of the death on 31 October 1928 of Mr. Samuel George Warner was received with deep regret, not only by a large circle of personal friends, but also by his brethren in the Actuarial profession. Although he retired from active professional work in May 1920 he kept in close touch with the Institute and with his fellow members in the Actuaries' Club and Gallio Club, of both of which bodies he had been Chairman, until the Spring of 1924, when he was the victim of an accident, having been knocked down by a motor-car in the Mall on his way to the Reform Club. He never completely recovered from the effects of this accident, which somewhat limited his activities, but his sudden death was unexpected.

Mr. Warner was born at Kelso, Scotland, on 4 November 1858. Early in his life his parents moved to London. He left school at the age of 13 because, as his father used to say, he had learnt everything that was to be learned there, and shortly afterwards he entered the London Office of the Scottish Provincial Assurance Co., where he worked under his old friend, Mr. David G. Simpson, the Secretary to the London Board. In May 1886 he transferred his services to the Law Union Fire and Life Assurance Co. In April 1887 he passed the examination for the Associateship of the Institute and in the following year he completed his examinations for the Fellowship, being then in his 30th year. In April 1891 he was appointed Actuary and



*Samuel George Warner.*

Secretary of the Company, an appointment he held until his retirement.

Mr. Warner's devotion to the interests of the Institute was unvarying. He was a constant attendant at the Sessional Meetings and frequently took part in the discussions on papers submitted. He was essentially a practical Actuary and the broad views he expressed were always listened to with interest. He served for 26 years on the Council and he devoted much of his leisure to Institute service, filling in succession practically all the honorary executive offices, in addition to acting on several occasions as an examiner and furnishing two interesting papers for discussion. In 1916 he was unanimously elected by the Council to the Presidential Chair, which he occupied with great success. His term of office was a difficult one. When it commenced the Great War had been in progress for nearly two years and the normal activities of the Institute were of necessity somewhat interrupted. The great majority of younger members were on service and as a consequence it became necessary to suspend the usual monthly sessional meetings and substitute occasional special meetings which were addressed by eminent authorities on questions of finance and economics. In November 1916 Mr. Warner delivered his inaugural address and he created a precedent in delivering a second address in his second year of office; this latter address, which was prepared from a bed of sickness, was especially welcomed as furnishing a subject for one of the Sessional meetings. Those who were privileged to hear these addresses will ever remember them, not only by reason of their appropriateness to the times in which they were delivered and the faith they breathed in the ultimate triumph of the national cause, but also as literary productions of a high order. They were not of purely ephemeral interest and it may be prophesied that many among future generations of Actuaries will read them with pleasure.

Although most men would have found that an amount of work equal to that performed by Mr. Warner in his official and professional capacities was a full tax on their energies it was not so with him; his energy seemed inexhaustible and his activities assumed many forms. Books and reading were his chief hobby and he used to relate how from the time he commenced work he saved up his pocket money to buy books which he read walking to and fro along the Old Kent Road between the Office and Camberwell; in this way he bought a complete set

or Carlyle's works and also the novels of Dickens as they came out by instalments in magazines. His reading was wide and varied, as his library showed, and his memory was remarkable ; he was a collector, in a modest way, of good editions and in the old days one of his favourite haunts was among the book shops in the Charing Cross Road. He was also a lover of poetry and the author of many charming verses written mostly for his family and children. When a young man he formed a literary society and ever since then he was connected with such societies. As a lecturer on literary subjects he obtained a considerable reputation. His lectures were prepared principally for the Balham Literary Society, but many of them were repeated in other districts and never failed to draw appreciative audiences, those on Dickens, Jane Austen, George Eliot, Carlyle, Browning and Tennyson being in great demand. They displayed the author's deep knowledge of his subject and they were delivered largely without the aid of manuscript.

In politics he was a Liberal and for many years Chairman of the Balham Liberal Association. He was invited before the War to stand for Parliament but he was unable to see his way to accept the invitation. He was a frequent speaker at political meetings in his neighbourhood and his speeches were effective, not only on account of the matter they contained, but also by reason of his eloquence. He was a natural orator and although his delivery was of a calm order it was impressive and his happy choice of words and turn of phrases were remarkable.

He was on the Committee of the Royal United Kingdom Beneficent Association, the Board of the London Missionary Society and for two years on the Council of the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation ; for these bodies he rendered valuable Actuarial assistance in an honorary capacity. He was also a member of the Committee of the Bolingbroke Hospital. Though Mr. Warner was nurtured in Scottish Presbyterianism, he associated himself years ago, when he made his home in South London, with the Balham Congregational Church and served it as Deacon and Secretary for many years with devotion.

No notice of Mr. Warner would be complete if it failed to convey some impression of the personal charm which was felt by all those who came into touch with him. He was a man of great culture and attainments, and he had an inborn kindness and gentleness of character that disclosed itself in all his actions. Although his purpose in life was serious he was broadminded and

always cheerful, and his deep sense of humour and genial wit made him a delightful companion. He was a gifted and kindly soul with high ideals ; his life was full of service to others, and he will ever live in the memories of those who knew him as one of the best beloved of his generation.

W. P. P.

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