

OBITUARY

FRANCIS JOSEPH MCGREGOR, M.A., F.F.A.

1899–1973

Francis Joseph McGregor died quite suddenly on 4th October 1973 and the news of his death came as a great shock to his many friends.

Born in Glasgow on 20th May 1899, he was educated at Allan Glen's, a school then exceptionally inclined to science, and showed early promise by being dux pupil of his year. Like many others of his age group, however, his studies were interrupted by war service. He received his commission in the Royal Field Artillery in the latter part of the First World War and served in France.

On resuming civilian life he graduated M.A. (Hons. Maths.) at Glasgow University and in 1920 entered the Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society, Head Office, Glasgow, to commence what was to be a highly successful business career. He qualified as a Fellow of the Faculty of Actuaries in 1923 and six years later received his first official appointment as Assistant Actuary. In 1934 he joined the Life Association of Scotland as Secretary and became Manager and Actuary in 1952, a position he held until his retirement in 1964.

Destined to spend the greater part of his business life in Edinburgh it was only to be expected that a person of Frank McGregor's ability would play a prominent part in the affairs of the Faculty and this he did in full measure, acting successively as Examiner, Member of Council, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Editor, Vice-President and finally as President in the years 1956-58. In 1957 he was a Vice-President of the 15th International Congress of Actuaries in New York.

Never lacking in courage to tackle the problems of the day, he drew attention in his Presidential Address to the difficulties confronting the actuarial profession as a result of the changing social and economic life of the nation and with considerable foresight he indicated some of the adjustments to existing practices which would be required to meet the altered circumstances. Indeed, it was this keen appreciation of the current situation combined with his sound judgment on matters affecting the broader issues of life assurance business that helped greatly in the discussions which took place under his Chairmanship of the Associated Scottish Life Offices 1960-62 and also in the management of his own office. Meticulous in every aspect of his work, he

earned the deep respect of his colleagues and will be remembered with affection for his absolute integrity and unfailing consideration for others.

A very human man, his outside interests were varied and only restricted in number by the time available to follow them. He was a great reader with a liking for a good detective story, a frequent theatre-goer with a preference for comedy, and a keen if only an occasional player of the Royal and Ancient Game as a member of the Bruntsfield Golf Club.

Frank McGregor and his wife were a devoted couple who enjoyed life together whether entertaining in their home, motoring in the Highlands or as enthusiastic members of the Life Association Bridge Club. They were constant companions during his leisure hours. They had three sons, one of whom is now a Professor of Mathematics in an Australian University, and the others are practising Chartered Accountants in Edinburgh. To them and to Mrs. McGregor we extend our sympathies.

J. M. R.