

MEMOIRS

PERCY FRANCIS HOOKER

PERCY FRANCIS HOOKER died suddenly on 1 July 1975, aged 74. After attending Bancroft's School, he joined the Alliance in 1917 and stayed with that Office for the rest of his career, retiring in 1964 as Deputy Actuary. He became a Fellow of the Institute in 1923, and thereafter took an active part in Institute affairs for over 40 years.

Percy Hooker will no doubt be best remembered within the Institute as the joint author, with L. H. Longley-Cook, of the classic text-book on *Life and Other Contingencies*, and by many older members as a Tutor and Examiner in that subject, in which capacities his service extended over nearly 25 years.

He served on Council in two periods totalling twelve years and he was Librarian from 1948 to 1953. His time on the Library Committee covered the period when the Library was being reorganized and developed after the War, to which work his knowledge and love of books contributed greatly. Amongst his other Institute activities he was at various times Treasurer, Editor of the Year Book, and Actuary to the Institute and Actuarial Tuition Service Pension Funds. He was a member of the Galileo and Actuaries' Clubs. In all these ways he contributed unstintingly and with distinction to the well-being and development of the profession.

The dedication which he displayed in work for the Institute was very apparent, too, in his approach to his church activities. He came from a strongly religious family and worked tirelessly for the Methodist Church in which he held many positions, as a Trustee, Treasurer, Overseas Missions Secretary and as a Society and Circuit Steward. He also undertook a considerable amount of actuarial work for the pension funds of the Methodist Missionary Society.

It is sometimes said that actuaries tend to be musical and certainly this was borne out in the case of Percy Hooker. He was a keen organist and for most of his life was either organist and choirmaster, or deputy organist, at all the churches with which he was connected.

He was by nature a serious and reticent man, but those who knew him well—and, such was the scope of his activities, they were many—appreciated his very real kindness, his humanity and his steadfastness. He was a delightful colleague and a staunch friend who will be sadly missed.

He is survived by his wife Lily, his son David, and his daughter Morna. It must have been a very special joy indeed for him to hear, shortly before his death, that Morna had been elected Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge.

A. E. TINCKLER