

MEMOIRS

JULIAN ANTONY SEVERN LAMB

TONY LAMB died as the result of an accident on 19 March 1973, at the age of 56.

His business career was spent entirely in the insurance world, beginning in 1936. Career and actuarial studies were interrupted by six years' war service in the Royal Artillery. Resuming both in 1945, Lamb qualified as a Fellow of the Institute in 1947 and moved to the Royal London Mutual Insurance Society in 1949. The Royal London was to provide the remainder of his business career, which was marked by rapid progress. Within six years he had been appointed Actuary to the Society. In 1965 he was elected to the Board of Directors, and five years later he relinquished the post of Actuary to become a General Manager. Appointment as the Society's Chief General Manager followed in 1972.

Lamb gave long service to the life assurance industry. He was a member of the Executive of the Industrial Life Offices Association, of the Industrial Assurance Council, and of several committees of the Life Offices' Association. These latter included the joint committee of the LOA and the Associated Scottish Life Offices dealing with public relations. Because he naturally put people before things and because he recognized that wise and skilful communication are essential to success and efficiency in any business activity, he took to PR work with enthusiasm. It was during his period as Chairman of this committee that he played a leading part in the establishment, by the Life Office Associations and the British Medical Association, of the British Life Assurance Trust for Health Education. The purpose and outward-looking philosophy of the Trust appealed greatly to him and he retained a strong interest in its activities and development. Only some two months before his death he was elected Deputy Chairman of the Life Offices' Association.

Lamb's work for the Institute began in 1950 as a tutor, followed after four years by a similar period as an examiner. He was elected to Council in 1967 and re-elected in 1972. His membership of dining clubs included office as Secretary and as Chairman of the Denarius Club, as Secretary of the Fellowship Club, and as Chairman of the Fifty Nine Club, of which he was a founder-member.

This bare account of a busy, successful career, cut short just as it was coming to new heights of recognition and authority, would be incomplete without reference to Tony Lamb the man, husband and father. Apart from his interests in music, photography, gardening and the Field Survey Association, his knack of becoming involved in unusual incidents afforded him many opportunities for exploiting his considerable talent for anecdote (often told against himself) and this, coupled with his strong personality and ready wit, resulted in his bringing many a cheerful element of colour into other people's lives. He was an evidently affectionate family man, proud of his children; and his Dutch wife, known to all as Jean, and his daughter and two sons all have the sympathy of his many friends and colleagues. Tony Lamb himself will be remembered with affection and respect by all who knew him, in working time or leisure time.

ALFRED EDWARDS

HENRY JOHN TAPPENDEN

SOME lives have a tragic quality almost Greek in intensity. Harry Tappenden's life was one; he suffered much, but bore his suffering with great courage. He was born in January 1906; his early life was spent in Orpington and he retained a great affection for this place, as he did for the City of London School where he was educated.

His whole career was spent with The Equitable Life Assurance Society, which he joined in 1922. For a while he served with the subsidiaries transacting reversionary business, becoming Actuary and Secretary of both subsidiaries in 1934. He was appointed Deputy Manager of the

Equitable in 1936, then Actuary and Manager in 1942 on the retirement of Sir William Elderton, a formidable man to follow.

Harry Tappenden had qualified as an actuary in 1930, which—comments one of his friends—was a 'vintage year'. He served the Institute as an Examiner from 1936 to 1943. With Norman Benz, he wrote the text-book on reversions and life interests. His meticulous mind was an asset in editing the *Journal*—as Assistant Editor 1942–44, Joint Editor 1944–46. He was a member of Council for 13 years and Honorary Secretary, 1950–52. These years coincided with the Presidency of F. A. A. Menzler, who had a high regard for his abilities as Honorary Secretary.

In the difficult post-war years, 1945–48, he served the Life Offices Association, first as Deputy Chairman (under R. J. Kirton), then as Chairman.

This career which held so much promise was cut short by the onset of a very rare, chronic disease, which has no known cause and no sure prognosis. The news came as a shattering blow to him, especially since he was about to marry at the time. Irene and he did marry, notwithstanding the implications of the diagnosis, and she was able to restore his confidence in himself, a wonderful work. Then, after only four years, she died and he was left to fight his illness in pain and loneliness.

Despite increasing physical weakness, he was able to continue to serve the Equitable as Actuary and Manager until 1968 (virtually the normal span) and as a Director for three more years. A colleague writes of his courage, good humour—and caustic wit—interested in sport of all kinds and very knowledgeable on cricket. He was a kind, generous and thoughtful man with no desire to draw attention to himself. He depended very much on his friends, obstinately refusing to accept the fact of his weakness until the last possible moment, yet then adapting himself readily to life in a wheel-chair. These last years would scarcely have been practicable without a long-standing friendship which ripened into a happy, second marriage. It is good that this part of his life was made easier by the devotion of his wife, Kathleen.

His mind remained alert to the end, as though a relatively youthful mind tenanted the body of a much older man. For example, a short while before his death, he was able to solve in his head all but one clue of *The Times* crossword puzzle, when there was no one at hand to fill in the words for him—for he could not write himself. He had been given three years to live, yet he had borne his disability for some twenty years, to the wonder of the doctors that saw him.

This brief account of his life may fittingly end with Donne's magnificent lines:

'Death, be not proud, though some have callèd thee
'Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;
'For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow
'Die not, poor Death . . .'

M. E. OGBORN