

## Sir Mark Webster Jenkinson, K.B.E., F.C.A.

It is with great regret that we report the death of Sir Mark Webster Jenkinson at the age of 57. He had been suffering from heart trouble for some months, and died suddenly at his home near Horley on Monday last.

Sir Mark was a native of Sheffield, and was educated there at Wesley College and privately. He took first place in the Final Examination of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in 1901, was admitted an Associate in the following year, and became a Fellow in 1908. He quickly made a name for himself in the profession, becoming very well-known as a lecturer to students' societies, and for many years he took the keenest practical interest in all matters affecting the interests of Chartered Accountant students. It was largely due to him that a substantial sum was set aside from the funds of the Institute for those students returning from war service. For some years he edited *The Accountants' Journal*, and many articles from his pen have appeared both in that journal and in *The Accountant*.

During the war, Mr. Webster Jenkinson, as he then was, was Controller of the Department of Factory Audit and Costs of the Ministry of Munitions, and was responsible for organising the costing system in the national munition factories which saved the country thousands of pounds. In recognition of his valuable work he was made a C.B.E. in 1918. He subsequently acted as Chief Liquidator of Contracts at the Ministry of Munitions. Shortly before the appointment of the Lawrence Committee on Army Administration, of which he was a member, he was invited by the Secretary of State for War to investigate the then new system of army accounting which was subsequently scrapped, although the Committee reported strongly in favour of its retention. The Committee's report appeared in 1925 and in the King's Birthday Honours List in the following year Mr. Jenkinson's name appeared as a Knight of the British Empire "for services to the War Office in connection with army accounting." Sir Mark served on a number of other important Government Committees, including the May Economy Committee in 1931 and those which inquired into night baking and the cost of housing.

For the last ten years of his life, Sir Mark was connected with Vickers, Ltd. and Vickers-Armstrongs. Prior to the financial reorganisation of Vickers in 1926, he carried out a thorough investigation into the

company's affairs, and it was on his report that the recommendations for the reorganisation were based. He was then invited to a seat on the general board of the company, and was also appointed a member of the Industrial Management Board, the Armament Shipbuilding Management Board and the Finance Management Board. Later he became financial controller of the company and in 1928 he joined the board of Vickers-Armstrongs. He was also chairman of the Broadway Finance and Investment Company, Cooke, Troughton and Simms, and Electric Holdings; deputy chairman of the Car and General Insurance Corporation, the Motor Union Insurance Company, and the Whitehead Torpedo Company; vice-chairman of the Earl of Dudley's Baggeridge Colliery and Round Oaks Works; and director of the Compagnie Européenne de Participations Industrielles, Edgehill, Ltd., the English Steel Corporation, and the Placencia de las Armas Company.

Sir Mark was a man of strong and independent views on the subject of industrial organisation and company administration. In many lectures which have appeared in our columns he has discussed such questions as rationalisation, the duties of auditors and the appointment of directors. He believed that the ideal administration of rationalised companies would be two boards of directors—control and executive—and he suggested that shareholders might feel more confidence if they themselves had some participation in the election of directors through a nomination committee, which could discuss with the board appointments to fill vacancies when they occurred. He was also strongly in favour of giving more opportunities and responsibility to men between 30 and 40, and believed that no public company should

be allowed to retain more than one-third of its directors over 60 years of age. Although in a recent address he enlarged on the comfort of Victorian homes, he was an equally strong believer in modern methods in business and was particularly interested in the development of aviation. Among Sir Mark's published works are "The Promotion and Accounts of a Private Limited Company," a similar work on a Public Limited Company, and "Costing in National Factories"; a large number of his lectures have also appeared in booklet form.

It is greatly to be regretted that a man of such a vigorous and enthusiastic mind, who was never afraid of expressing and carrying out his ideas and who had a firm faith in the future, should have passed away at a comparatively early age.

