



Sidney Alec Findlay, CBE

who was born on 31 March, 1904, died on 10 June, 1971.

After education at Luton Modern School he was articled in 1920 to J. W. Tomlinson, then Borough Engineer of Luton, where in 1923 he was engaged as a Civil Engineering Assistant in the Luton office.

During the succeeding years he advanced in his municipal engineering career, moving to the city of St Albans, then to Epsom Borough—both rapidly developing centres. This enabled him

to obtain wide experience of highways, sewerage and sewage disposal and other municipal engineering works.

In 1934 he went to the Metropolitan Borough of Poplar as Senior Assistant and in 1938 became Deputy Borough Engineer and Surveyor of Poplar: in the same year he was promoted to Borough Engineer. During the war the intensive bombing of that part of London was a challenge to Findlay which he met with outstanding success in his civil defence work. His obvious ability in this field was soon recognized and later he was seconded to Wandsworth to organize the vast task of war damage repairs. In London he served on many committees and represented the Metropolitan Borough Engineers on the Header Committee for organizing war-damage repairs and advising the Government on many civil defence issues.

In 1947 Findlay moved to Scotland where he became General Manager of the Scottish Special Housing Association. His proven management ability enabled him to undertake the onerous task of administering the extensive operations of this body which, by the time of his retirement in 1965, had completed 60 000 homes widely distributed throughout Scotland.

Findlay took an active part in the affairs of the Institution in his later years. He was Chairman of the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Association in 1956–57 and in 1963 was elected a Member of Council and served for five years. He served on the Sub-Committee on Awards, on Institution Medal Competitions, on the Steering Committee of the Economic Development Board, on the Structural and Building Divisional Board, the Liaison Committee, Education and Training, the Library Committee, and on the Planning Group Steering Committee. He was author of a Paper, 'The Engineer's Place in Management', CCE, July 1957, 14.

From 1963 onwards he served from time to time as an Examiner for the Institution. In addition he was an active member of the Institution of Municipal Engineers, a Fellow of the Royal Sanitary Institute and a Registered Architect. He also served for some years on the Committee of the Building Research Station.

In recognition of his public service he was made an OBE in 1945 and CBE in 1958.

Findlay was a great humanitarian, always interested in helping younger men

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in their careers and well known for his co-operative attitude towards his colleagues—in fact his sense of humour and genuine concern for people at all levels won him friends wherever he went. As an Engineer Manager he was one of the pioneers, and the middle and latter part of his career well illustrates how an able engineer can direct his energies to the management side of public works, with eminent success in top management.

He was on the Institution's Roll for 40 years. Elected to corporate membership in 1931, he was transferred to the senior grade in 1944.

He is survived by his widow, his son and daughter.

F.R.D.