

Charles Frank Lapworth, BSc.(Eng)

who was born on 25 January, 1904, died on 5 September, 1971.

Elder son of Dr Herbert Lapworth, himself a Member, and a grandson of Professor Charles Lapworth, FRS, he was educated at Epsom College and King's College, London. After taking a BSc(Eng) degree in 1924, he began his practical training with the Paterson Engineering Company and a year later became a pupil under agreement to his father: he was engaged as assistant resident engineer on the construction of the new Ireton water scheme for Scarborough Corporation. In 1928 he returned to Westminster to his father's consulting practice, but ill-health intervened, forcing him to abandon work for three years. As a Partner he rejoined his father's firm in 1933 (renamed Herbert Lapworth Partners).

Being in his own words 'born on a dam' and brought up in the Derwent Valley, land of dams, with some knowledge of the Powdermill earth dam for Hastings and the Argal concrete dam for Falmouth, he qualified for appointment to Panel I of Civil Engineers constituted under the Reservoirs (Safety Provisions) Act, 1930. After the war he was then able to take some responsibility in connexion with the Weir Wood earth dam for the new town of Crawley and the Lamaload buttress dam for Macclesfield. He was associated with the firm's concrete dams at Drift and Stithians in Cornwall, earth dams at Bough Beech in East Surrey and at Scammonden in Yorkshire, opened by the Queen in 1971.

His life was dogged by ill-health, endured with great courage, but ill or well he was absorbed in hydrological research, particularly in the question of 'Surge control in pipe-lines' (I.W.E., XLIX, 29 (1944)); 'Reservoir storage and yield' (I.W.E., 3, 269 (1949)); and 'Evaporation from a reservoir near London' (I.W.E., 19, 163 (1965)).

Quiet and unassuming, his advice was readily available to colleagues and clients. He was a keen golfer and at one time captained St Stephen's Club Golfing Society.

On the amalgamation of Herbert Lapworth Partners with Rofe and Raffety and Sandeman, Kennard and Partners in 1970, he relinquished his partnership, but continued as a consultant to the new firm of Rofe, Kennard and Lapworth.

Charles Frank Lapworth was sometime member of Council of the Institution of Water Engineers, a member of the Geological and Meteorological Societies and a member of the Association of Consulting Engineers.

Elected to corporate membership in 1929, he was transferred to the senior grade in 1939.

He is survived by his widow and one sister.

R. C. S. W.