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NEW TEXT BOOK

A group of five authors has now been selected to write the new text book on actuarial mathematics. The book will probably be in two volumes, and will expand upon the material covered in Jordan's *Life Contingencies*. It will include applications of contingency theory to individual and group life and health insurance, annuities, pension funding, and computer algorithms used in calculating actuarial values. It will also cover some elementary applications to casualty coverage and to risk theory.

The authors selected to write the new text book are:

Newton L. Bowers, Jr., F.S.A., M.A.-A.A., Professor of Actuarial Science, College of Business Administration, Drake University;

Hans U. Gerber, A.S.A., Associate Professor of Mathematics, University of Michigan;

James C. Hickman, F.S.A., A.C.A.S., M.A.A.A., E.A., Professor of Business and Statistics. University of Wisconsin, Madison;

Donald A. Jones, A.S.A., M.A.A.A., E.A., Associate Professor of Mathematics, University of Michigan;

Cecil J. Nesbitt, F.S.A., M.A.A.A., A.I.A., Professor of Mathematics, University of Michigan.

The text book development will be reviewed by a committee consisting of representatives from the Casualty Actuarial Society and the Society of Actuaries who specialize in the fields of life, health and group insurance, pensions, casualty insurance, and actuarial education. This book is being designed for the course of reading in the Associateship examinations, and it is expected will be published by 1981. □

ICA ZURICH LAUSANNE

21st INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ACTUARIES

Announcement No. 2 of the Congress Committee has been distributed to members of the International Actuarial Association for 1977 and/or 1978. Note that the Provisional Registration form enclosed therein must be forwarded to the Congress Correspondent by October 31, 1978.

Members of the Canadian Section should send the original and first carbon copy to:

MR. LAURENCE E. COWARD
William M. Mercer Limited
7 King Street East
Toronto, Ontario M5C 1A2, Canada

Members of the U.S. section should send them to:

MR. JOHN C. WOODDY
Senior Vice President
North American Reassurance Company
245 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10017 □

Actuarial Meetings

Nov. 6-8, Conference of Actuaries in Public Practice

Nov. 9, Baltimore Actuaries Club

Nov. 13-14, Canadian Institute of Actuaries

Nov. 15, Seattle Actuarial Club

Nov. 16, Southeastern Actuaries Club

Nov. 21, Chicago Actuarial Club

MORTALITY MENSURATION

Robert W. Batten, *Mortality Table Construction*, pp. 246, Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N J. 07632, $15.95.

by Richard L. London

Measurement of Mortality by the late Harry Gershenson has been for the past seventeen years perhaps the only text published in North America on the subject of the construction of mortality and other tables. It certainly has been the best known and most widely read. It has now been joined by a new publication, *Mortality Table Construction* by Robert W. Batten, Professor of Actuarial Science at Georgia State University.

The scope of the topic contained in the new text is virtually the same as that of the older text, although presented in a slightly different order. In seven successive chapters, Professor Batten discusses the several common mortality assumptions [uniform distribution of deaths (UDD), Balducci, constant force]; the concept of exposure and how it can be directly determined under the Balducci hypothesis; methods of tabulating the basic categories involved in mortality studies; individual record exposure studies (using actual ages, insuring ages, policy durations, and fiscal ages); valuation schedule exposure studies, categorized as being Balducci based or UDD based; the demonstration (both intuitively and mathematically) of the equivalence of an individual record formula and a valuation schedule formula based on identical assumptions (counterpart formulas); and, finally, practical aspects of mortality studies.

Overall, this reviewer considers the new text to be a fairly good one.

Specifically, the treatment of tabulating rules, independent of an application to actual, insuring or fiscal ages, is well

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