# THE SUCCESSFUL AGENT: PRACTICAL HINTS FOR THE SELLER OF LIFE INSURANCE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

#### ISBN 9780649015153

The successful agent: practical hints for the seller of life insurance by William Alexander

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

#### WILLIAM ALEXANDER

# THE SUCCESSFUL AGENT: PRACTICAL HINTS FOR THE SELLER OF LIFE INSURANCE



## - The

# Successful Agent

PRACTICAL HINTS FOR THE SELLER OF LIFE INSURANCE

THE PRINCIPLES OF INSURANCE EXPLAINED SO SIMPLY THAT ANY LAYMAN CAN READILY UNDERSTAND

By WILLIAM ALEXANDER

PRICE: CLOTH, \$2.00; FLEXIBLE LEATHER, \$2.50

1907

THE SPECTATOR COMPANY
135 WILLIAM STREET
NEW YORK

HG 8876

4069

GENERAL

Copyright 1907
By THE SPECTATOR COMPANY
NEW YORK

#### PREFACE

The object of this book is practical; to tell the agent what he must know to be successful in selling life insurance.

The author believes that he is competent to give advice because he has had thirty years of experience, during which time he has given a great deal of attention to the instruction of agents, and has seen the practical results of his work.

His identification with a particular company, moreover, has given him a knowledge of which the outsider is ignorant. Indeed, experience shows that the mere theorist, or the man acquainted with field work only, lacks much necessary information. Hence the author believes that he enjoys a distinct advantage as a teacher.

His aim is to give information which shall be as useful to the agent of one company as to the agent of another. In this volume he advocates no company or companies, and champions only the great cause of LIFE INSURANCE.

It is his hope that any agent who reads will find the book a means of increasing his income; and that any layman who reads will recognize its teachings as disinterested and unbiased.

While these explanations are primarily for beginners, it is believed that much will be found of use by veteran agents, or by the employers of canvassers, as well as by laymen who seek enlightenment regarding the so-called mysteries of life insurance.

In the early chapters some elementary truths are necessarily discussed. If the reader should skip these as unimportant or dry, it is doubtful whether the body of the book will prove either entertaining or profitable; for unless the A, B, C of the subject is learned the language used thereafter will be obscure, and the lessons taught will have little practical value.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

### BOOK I

#### CHAPTER I.

|   | PAGE. |
|---|-------|
| WHAT THE AGENT MUST KNOW.  The average citizen is ignorant and must be enlightened. Life insurance depends on the law of mortality as applied to a large body of people. Its relations to the individual can only be understood after some knowledge has been obtained of the manuer in which it applies on the average to this large body. | 13    |
| CHAPTER II.   |       |
| A FEW FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS  The average duration of life of a multitude of people may be accurately determined.   | 18    |
| CHAPTER III.  |       |
| COST OF INSURANCE ON THE NATURAL BASIS  | 23    |
| CHAPTER IV.   |       |
| THE SINGLE PREMIUM  | 28    |
| CHAPTER V.  |       |
| THE LEVEL PREMIUM   | 31    |
| CHAPTER VI.   |       |
| THE GROSS PREMIUM  The "gross" premium includes a "loading" for expenses, which, when added to the net premium, gives the correct rate to charge.   | 35    |
| CHAPTER VII.  |       |
| SECURITY  | 39    |
| A life insurance company organized on a scientific basis cannot fail if prudently and skillfully managed. Surplus.—Relations between assets, liabilities and surplus. The Reserve explained.  | 12.0  |
| CHAPTER VIII.   |       |
| STANDARDS OF VALUATION  | 44    |
| Why the reserve need not be as large as the policy obligations. Why it is that the lower the rate of interest employed the higher the standard of valuation. Insurance Reports. Publications THAT THE AGENT WILL PIND USEPUL.   | V757  |

#### CHAPTER IX.

|  | PAGE. |
|--|-------|
| ADEQUATE PREMIUMS MUST BE CHARGED  Assessment companies have failed because their charges have been inadequate. Insurance on the natural basis. The agent must be able to show the strong points of his own company. | 49    |
| CHAPTER X.   |       |
| DIVIDENDS  | 54    |
| BOOK II  |       |
| CHAPTER I.   |       |
| THE POLICY CONTRACT  | 63    |
| CHAPTER II.  |       |
| POLICY CONTRACT (Continued)  | 71    |
| CHAPTER III.   |       |
| POLICY CONTRACT (Continued)  | 79    |
| CHAPTER IV.  |       |
| THE NEW INSURANCE LAW IN NEW YORK  | 84    |
| BOOK III   |       |
| CHAPTER I.   |       |
| THE AGENT A SPORTSMAN  | 93    |
| CHAPTER II.  |       |
| DIGNITY OF THE AGENT'S CALLING   | 99    |
| It is on a par with the learned professions. It gives scope for the<br>highest attainments and ambitions. Its many advantages illus-<br>trated.  |       |

#### CHAPTER III.

| GENERAL ADVICE  What the agent must do first. What his qualifications must be.  Why any man of integrity, industry and intelligence can succeed.  Scope of modern life insurance.               | 103  |
|---|------|
| CHAPTER IV.   |      |
| HOW THE AGENT MUST BEGIN  | 109  |
| CHAPTER V.  |      |
| HOW TO FIND CLIENTS.  Cultivate friends and make acquaintances. How to get at people.  The importance of tact. Prejudices must be overcome. The agent must have energy, originality, ingenuity. | 114  |
| CHAPTER VI.   |      |
| THINGS TO DO AND TO AVOID   | 122  |
| CHAPTER VII.  |      |
| TIME IS MONEY TO THE AGENT  | 126  |
| CHAPTER VIII.   |      |
| ORGANIZATION AND CONCENTRATION.  The importance of system. The business of the agent must be carefully organized. What experts have said on this subject.                                       | 132  |
| CHAPTER IX.   |      |
| CONFIDENCE  | 135  |
| CHAPTER X.  |      |
| USE YOUR WITS   | 138  |
| The importance of devising new and striking methods. Argument in favor of endowment insurance. The annuity as an entering wedge, and as a weapon of defense. Other illustrations.               |      |
| CHAPTER XI.   |      |
| THE RIGHT POINT OF VIEW   | 144  |
| A policy is an asset, not an expense. The sense in which all life insurance is an investment. When is a man adequately insured? Other illustrations.  | 12.5 |