

OBITUARY.

DR. ROBERT AITKEN.

MEMBERS of the British Association of Dermatology will regret to hear of the death of Robert Aitken on 17 March, and many will recall his successful presidency of the Annual Meeting at Edinburgh in 1950. He had been a member of the British Association of Dermatology since 1922.

Dr. Aitken was born in Edinburgh in 1888 and graduated M.B., Ch.B., from Edinburgh University in 1911. After a period in general practice with the late Dr. Crerar in Maryport he commenced the study of dermatology under Sir Norman Walker who encouraged what proved to be a lifelong interest in lupus vulgaris; this was the subject for his thesis for M.D. During the Great War he served as a surgeon in the Royal Navy with the Grand Fleet and in the Mediterranean. In 1917 he became M.R.C.P.Ed., and was elected F.R.C.P.Ed. in 1921.

After his war service he resumed his dermatological work and was appointed to the staff of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. He was promoted to full physician in 1933 and made a lecturer in dermatology to Edinburgh University. He was particularly interested in cutaneous tuberculosis and ultra-violet light and organized a Finsen-Lomholt light department which did much useful work. His publications included two books, *Ultra-violet Radiations and Their Uses* and *The Problem of Lupus Vulgaris*, as well as papers on various other and related subjects. His hobbies included music, photography and yachting, and those who attended the Annual Meeting of the Association in 1937 and enjoyed the trip on the Firth of Clyde in his cabin-cruiser will not forget a delightful experience.

Heart disease prevented him from enjoying many other aspects of open-air life. Since his retirement from the Royal Infirmary in July 1953 he had suffered constantly from ill health, so that his end when it came was a merciful relief. It was sad that he was not permitted to enjoy his retirement as he would have liked. His colleagues will join in expressing sympathy with his family in their loss.

G. A. G. P.

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