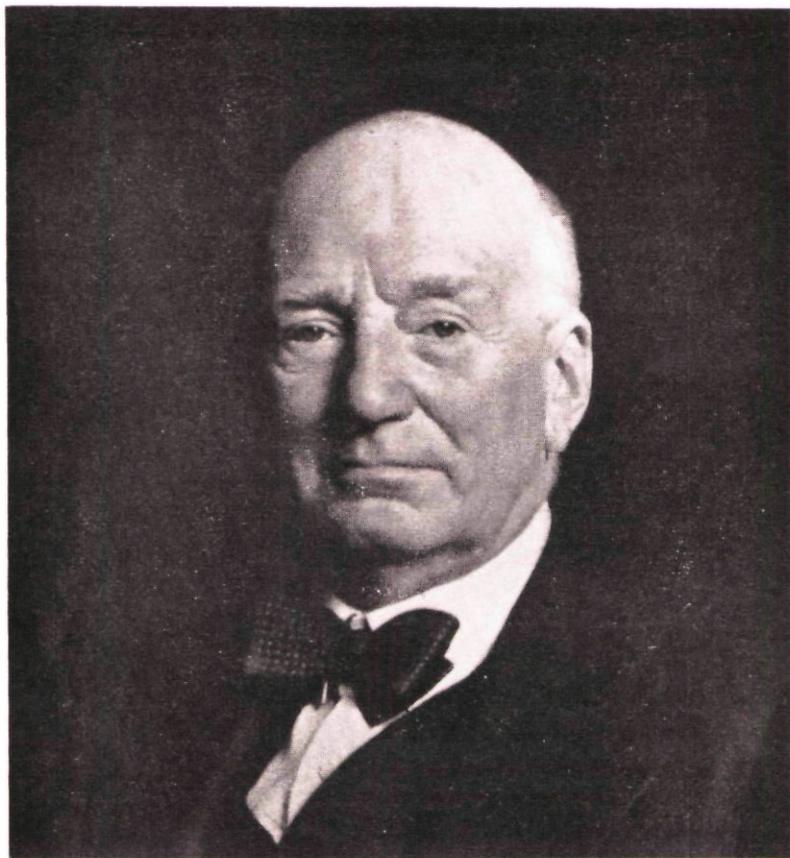


WILFRED STEPHEN FOX, M.D., F.R.C.P.

Wilfred Fox, who died on 22 May 1962 at the age of 87, will scarcely be remembered as a dermatologist by the present generation. Nevertheless he was a very active figure in the dermatological fraternity in the first quarter of the present century. He qualified from St. George's Hospital in 1902, having previously been educated at Marlborough and Trinity College, Cambridge. After holding some house appointments he went to Paris and studied at the St. Louis Hospital and in 1906 was appointed Physician to the Skin Department at St. George's Hospital.



He soon established himself in British dermatology and at the time of his death was one of the two survivors of the old and very select Dermatological Society of London. Strangely the only other survivor, Dr. Parkes Weber, died within a fortnight of his death. Fox served for several years on the Editorial Committee of the *British Journal of Dermatology* and was one of the founder members of the British Association of Dermatology. He contributed much to the work of the Dermatological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine in its early days and was its Hon. Secretary 1911-13. He was one of the distinguished contributors to the section on diseases of the skin in Allbutt and Rolleston's *System of Medicine* and published a book entitled *Syphilis and its Treatment* in 1920.

For many years there had been no contact between St. John's Hospital and the dermatologists attached to the London teaching hospitals but in 1923 Fox, together with J. M. H. MacLeod and Henry MacCormac, agreed to join the staff of St. John's thus commencing an association which has since persisted and paved the way for the foundation of the London School of Dermatology, now the Institute of Dermatology. He was also dermatologist to the Seaman's Hospital, Greenwich and a lecturer in the postgraduate school there.

Fox had to retire from the staff of St. George's in 1926 owing to a rule that members of the full staff must retire after twenty years' service; this made him decide to give up medicine entirely and go into business. He joined the board of the family firm of Chilean merchants, later becoming its chairman, and also held other directorships. He was, however, best known in recent years as an horticulturist. His wonderful garden at his house near Godalming was often open to the public and an arboretum which he planted on adjoining land was given by him to the National Trust in 1952. His interest in trees was shown by the founding by him of the Roads Beautifying Association to encourage the planting of appropriate trees along new arterial roads. The results of its activities can be seen in many areas.

Fox had a most friendly and attractive personality. Tall and handsome, bubbling over with energy, he was always ready to help in any suitable project. British dermatology lost much by his premature retirement which was much regretted by all who were associated with him.

A. M. H. G.

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