

## OBITUARY.

## ARTHUR DOUGLAS HEATH.

ARTHUR DOUGLAS HEATH, whose sudden death took place on May 8th last, was a Devonshire man, his father being a veterinary surgeon practising in Exeter. Heath was a student at University College Hospital. He became qualified in 1892, and in the same year took his M.B.Lond. with honours. He became M.D. in 1893. He took the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1901 and became a Fellow in 1933. After holding various resident appointments at University College Hospital, Heath, in 1894, settled in general practice in Birmingham, and in the same year was elected Surgical Casualty Officer at the General Hospital. He held this post until 1904, when he became Casualty Assistant Physician, and in 1906 he was elected to the post of Physician to the Skin Department at the General Hospital, a post he held until 1934 when he was appointed Consulting Physician.

Long before being appointed Physician to the Skin Department, Heath had become interested in diseases of the skin, and he had that very best of all trainings for a man taking up work in a special department, *i. e.* a very thorough experience of general practice and also of emergency medicine and surgery in the Out-patient Department of a large hospital. It was this training that helped to make Heath the successful dermatologist that he was, for he was first and foremost a physician of great ability, who realized that his special subject had tentacles of connection with the whole of medicine and surgery. Heath was an enthusiast as regards dermatology; while he had a great knowledge of the rarer conditions, he never allowed his interest in the unusual to interfere with his study of the usual. He was deservedly a popular teacher of students, and the writer, when listening to him talk about a rare skin disease, was always impressed by the accuracy and breadth of his knowledge. The recollection of an occasion when Heath was demonstrating a case of leprosy will never be effaced. He made "those dry bones live"—the very essence of good clinical teaching. In 1926 he was President of the British Association of Dermatology and Syphilis, and for several years he was a Vice-President of the Dermatological Section of the Royal Society of

Medicine. He published various papers on dermatology, but never wrote a systematic book on his subject.

Apart from his work, Heath had many interests : he was an enthusiastic fly-fisherman and was never happier than when wading in the Lugg or the Arrow, the borders of Worcestershire and Herefordshire being his favourite fishing district. He was a great collector of antiques ; his collection of clocks was, for a private collection, almost unique. He possessed many examples by Tompion and Knibb and by all the great English makers. It was astonishing that so busy a man had time to study and gain so great a knowledge of what was to him a side subject.

Douglas Heath was a most popular man among his colleagues, humorous, kind-hearted, a good companion in every way. His death is felt greatly and has left a gap in the medical life of Birmingham and in the ranks of British dermatologists.

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