

OBITUARY.

DR. JAMES SOMMERVILLE.

Dr. James Sommerville died in Glasgow on 23 February 1965. He was 69 years of age.

Born in Rutherglen in 1895, he received his education at Hamilton Academy and thereafter at Glasgow University where it was his intention to proceed to the degree of Master of Arts. The outbreak of the First World War interrupted his studies and he saw active service as a combatant with the Highland Light Infantry. On his



return after the war he decided to study medicine and re-entered Glasgow University, graduating M.B., Ch.B. from there in 1922.

He entered general practice in Glasgow but was soon attracted to dermatology, and to equip himself for this served for a time in the dermatology departments of Glasgow Royal Infirmary and Glasgow Victoria Infirmary. In 1934 he was appointed Dispensary Physician in diseases of the skin at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, Dermatologist at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, and Physician in charge of wards at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow. In 1939 he was appointed lecturer in dermatology to Anderson College, then the extra-mural school of medicine in Glasgow. He held this appointment until 1949 and in 1950 he succeeded the late Dr. Allison D. McLachlan as McCall Anderson Lecturer in Dermat-

ology, University of Glasgow, and Consultant in charge of wards at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow. In addition to these appointments he continued his commitments at the Southern General Hospital and Royal Hospital for Sick Children as well as a rapidly expanding consultant practice.

These arduous duties would have been more than enough for the average individual but when he was asked to organize and administer a dermatological service for the counties of Argyll and Stirling he set about this new task with enthusiasm and energy which left his juniors in dismay. In 1952 he became F.R.F.P.S.(Glasgow).

He was an active member of the British Association of Dermatology, the North British Dermatological Society, and the Section of Dermatology of the Royal Society of Medicine. Despite his busy life he contributed a number of papers to dermatological literature.

He was a man of limitless energy and drive in his work which was equalled both on the golf course and in his garden. He was a member of Irvine Bogside golf course, which he captained for two years, Old Troon and the Senior Golfers' Society, and on more than one occasion won the Dowling-McCaw trophy at the annual meeting of the British Association of Dermatology. His love of golf was inherited by his daughter, Dorothea, who became Scottish Golf Champion and played in the Curtis Cup team, both of which were a source of immense pleasure to him. He was a keen gardener, specializing in roses and wearing a fresh one in his lapel daily: he was often seen in odd corners of the hospital discussing the merits of a particular strain with other members of the staff.

His great energy did much for the Glasgow school and his foresight in employing a full-time photographer has left the University department with a most valuable collection of colour photographs.

He is survived by his widow, two sons, both of whom are doctors, and a married daughter, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

J. A. MILNE.

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