

David Hepburn, C.M.G., M.D.

DAVID HEPBURN was one of the numerous demonstrators trained in Edinburgh University under Sir William Turner who subsequently became Professors of Anatomy in other Schools of Medicine.

He was long associated with the Anatomy Department of the University of Edinburgh, where he filled the honourable post of Senior Demonstrator from 1885 till 1903, and in that capacity his was a figure well known to and respected by many generations of medical students.

He excelled as a teacher of Anatomy, systematic and orderly in the presentation of facts, with clear expression and pleasing voice, and the ability to illustrate rapidly and graphically on the blackboard facts displayed in the dissections.

The number of students in the practical classes in the University ran into large figures, and the task of organising the work was in itself no light one, but Hepburn took it on his shoulders and relieved his chief of all anxiety and work in connection with it.

Research in Anatomy at that time was largely directed to problems of Comparative Anatomy, and Hepburn carried out some useful work in this field. He published a valuable paper on "Comparative Anatomy of the Muscles and Nerves in the Limbs of Man and the Anthropoid Apes."

He was an accurate observer, and the facts contained in it form a storehouse of reliable information. The discovery of the remains of the Java *Pithecanthropus* directed attention to the features characteristic of the human Femur, and in this connection Hepburn published an important paper on the racial characters of the Femora in the University of Edinburgh Anatomy Museum.

He saw the beginning of that enormous widening of the scope of Anatomy which took place as new methods in Histology and Embryology were introduced, and new material especially in Human Embryology and in Comparative Anatomy became available, and Anatomy became more associated with the study of the functions of the human body.

In 1903 he was elected Professor of Anatomy in the University College, Cardiff, and there found full scope for his abilities as a teacher, and afterwards as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine as organiser.

Although his resignation from the professorship fell due in 1924, he was

invited to retain it, and retired only in 1927 amid expressions of general regret.

No mention of Hepburn would be complete without reference to the devoted service he gave in the Volunteer and subsequently the Territorial Forces. He was for many years in command of the Edinburgh Medical Unit of the Officers' Training Corps, and was an efficient and greatly liked C.O. During the War he rose to the rank of Surgeon-Colonel, and held the responsible post of command of the Third Western General Hospital at Cardiff.

Honours came to him towards the close of his career. He was made a C.M.G. in 1917, and was also a Knight of Grace of the Order of St John of Jerusalem. His numerous friends knew how well deserved these honours were by one who had given loyal and devoted service to the universities in which he worked, and to the medical forces in which he served.

He was elected a Fellow in 1890, and died on 9th March 1931.

D. W.