

# Obituary.

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## Dr. R. D. Givin.

The death of Dr. R. D. Givin, news of which has just reached Australia by cable, occurred at Coleraine, Co. Londonderry, Ireland, where he was paying an extended visit to his relatives and the land of his birth. Although born in Ireland, Dr. Givin was essentially an Australian, having first arrived in Sydney at the age of about 14 years, during the middle 70's in the S.S. Whampoa. Returning later to the old land, Dr. Givin took his degree as M.D., L.R.C.P., and M.R.C.S. Edinburgh, and then returned once more to Australia, where he soon attained a position of eminence in his profession, being eventually appointed Chief Medical Officer to the Australian Mutual

Provident Society, a position which he held till within two years of his death.

In 1903 Dr. Givin became a Member of the New South Wales Branch of the British Astronomical Association, and at the same time a whole-hearted worker in the cause of astronomy. Although not unknown in planetary work, it is for his consistent and systematic work on the Sun that Dr. Givin will chiefly be remembered, and for which he received the thanks of the Director of the Section. Possessed of exceptionally keen eyesight, a large number of naked-eye spots were detected and recorded by him, and graphic curves of faculæ and spots plotted out. At the time of his death Dr. Givin possessed a fine  $3\frac{3}{4}$ -in. Parkes refractor, with which he made a number of drawings of Mars, showing an unusual amount of detail.

His earlier telescope he had presented to the Branch, and it had been his intention on returning to Australia to acquire a large equatorial, which would have been more suited to his undoubted ability. At the time of his death Dr. Givin was about 49 years of age.

E. H. BEATTIE.