

OBITUARY.

THE LATE MAJOR LINTON HOPE, M.I.N.A.

“ ‘Would'st thou,’ so the helmsman answered, ‘know the secret of the seas?’ ”

Major Linton Hope sailed before the mast, and worked as a carpenter and boat builder, on which solid foundation he based his study of Naval Architecture, specialising in light resilient construction. His many published writings and books form an unequalled body of authoritative information on the subject.

As a member of the Institute of Naval Architects, as Consulting Naval Architect to the King of the Belgians, and as a prominent member of the Yacht Racing Association, he exercised a sound influence on the technical side of his profession, while as a clever helmsman and a keen sportsman, he carried many flags at the end of a season's racing.

Useful inventions marked his mechanical aptness. All classes of yachts, sailing dinghies, skimming dishes and motor boats showed the soundness of his principles and the versatility of his applications by their variety and success.

The cruising schooner “Molihawk III.” (90-tonner), the Hope-Thorneycroft Hydroplane, and the 1-rater “Sorceress” may serve as examples. The combination of strength and lightness, for which his hulls were distinguished, marked him as the very man to bring into consultation on the design of hulls for sea-aeroplanes. His first design, the A.D. boat, was a revelation to hull designers, and his P.5 hull set a standard which will remain for many years. He professed having little knowledge of formal mathematics, yet he was deeply imbued with the true spirit of the *géomètre*.

Probably he never, in his life, wrote down the second differential coefficient of the simplest function, yet his eye detected at a glance the slightest discontinuity in the second differential coefficient of a boat line.

The calculus of variations was less known to him than Greek, yet his variation of hull lines to yield the “best” compromise was a masterly application of its principles.

His modesty of manner concealed from superficial acquaintance his great talent, amounting to genius in his own line of work. There was nothing patchy about his hull designs; they were finished with high craftsmanship to the last detail.

His personal friends will long cherish remembrance of the charm of his companionship.

