

Whetham, James, M. D., (Vancouver), was born in Wentworth county, Ontario, on the 1st of February, 1854, and passed his boyhood years in that county. He received his early education at the public school of his own district and subsequently at Waterdown, N. S., and Hamilton Collegiate Institute. His father George Whetham, was, as a young man, a member of the long established firm of S. Whetham & Sons, extensive flax and hemp manufacturers in England, but moved by the same restless and enterprising spirit which afterwards characterized his son, he emigrated to America, selected Wentworth county as his home, there married and started business as a general merchant but unfortunately died, while his family was still young—the subject of the present sketch being then only eight years of age. The English branch of the family is numerous and some of its members have been highly honored by their countrymen. Sir Charles Whetham, Dr. Whetham's uncle, was for many years alderman and director of various corporations in London, and was elected sheriff and finally in 1879 was Lord Mayor of London. Dr. Whetham while still at school was attracted by the glowing accounts of the Canadian Northwest and after teaching school for some time in his native county he started for Manitoba in 1878 and invested a few hundred dollars there in farm lands. But his eyes were still turned westward and he soon set out through the Western and Pacific States. Of all points visited, Spokane Falls consisting then of only a few houses impressed him most favorably and he located some desirable corners there, transferring his Manitoba interest to that city a year before the disastrous boom. Meanwhile he was spending his winters in the study of medicine. Three sessions were passed at Trinity Medical School, Toronto, another session at the Medical School in Portland, Oregon, during one of his visits to the Pacific Coast, and subsequently two sessions at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York. With the exception of a short time in Spokane Falls Dr. Whetham has never practised his profession, his attention since graduation being directed mainly to real estate and kindred interests. He was one of the earliest visitors to the future site of Vancouver and soon decided to take a substantial interest in its development. For a time his interests were about equally divided between Spokane Falls and Vancouver, but in 1887 he resolved to