

In Memoria



Thomas Richards Johns II

Thomas Richards Johns II, Chairman of the Department of Neurology of the University of Virginia School of Medicine, died on February 11, 1988. He was 63 years of age. He was born in Fairmont, West Virginia; attended Morgantown High School; West Virginia University; Harvard College; and Harvard Medical School, from which he received his M.D. in 1948. After an internship at the Faulkner Hospital, on the service of Dr. James A. Halstead, he began training in neurology under Bernard J. Alpers at Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia, and thereafter with H. Houston Merritt at the Neurological Institute of New York at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. He completed his Chief Residency to become Assistant Professor of Neurology at the University of Virginia in January of 1956. Within 6 months he was named Acting Neurologist-in-Chief, and became Neurologist-in-Chief in 1958. He became Professor of Neurology in 1964, and occupied the Alumni Chair of Neurology in 1972. He built the Department of Neurology, which initially was a division of the Department of Neurology and Psychi-

atry and became an independent department in 1967, at which time he became its first chairman, a position that he held to the end of his life.

Honors and recognitions were many, beginning with the National Honor Society in 1941; Phi Beta Kappa in 1945, Alpha Omega Alpha in 1960, and he was named a John and Mary R. Markle Scholar in Medical Science. He was awarded the Robley Dunglison Award for Teaching at the University of Virginia in 1965; this gave him tremendous pleasure and was a fitting recognition of his excellence in teaching and his dedication to the welfare of younger colleagues. He always looked on even the most junior of medical students as full collegial partners in the profession that he so loved.

His principal academic interest was the study of neuromuscular disorders, particularly myasthenia gravis. He studied the neuropharmacology of neuromuscular transmission with Dr. Stephen Thesleff of Lund, Sweden, and established a neuromuscular research laboratory at the University of Virginia. He surrounded himself with a clinical and research team that made major contributions to the study of myasthenia and formed the nucleus of the University of Virginia Jerry Lewis Neuromuscular Center, established in 1982. However, his interests in disorders of the nervous system ranged widely and the interests of members of the department ranged from movement disorders to neuroimmunology.

T. R. Johns was a strong supporter of the epilepsy movement. He was one of the first members of the Public Health Service Advisory Committee on the Epilepsies, a committee under whose aegis a series of conferences resulting in landmark publications resulted, including the first edition of *Basic Mechanisms of the Epilepsies* and *Antiepileptic Drugs*. The Public Health Service Advisory Committee also espoused the cause of Comprehensive Epilepsy Programs and, during his leadership, activities in the epilepsy movement flourished at the University of Virginia.

His integrity and his loyalty, his liberal mind, and yet his dedication to tradition, characterized him as a true member of Mr. Jefferson's University. An excellent committee-person, he always took a constructive approach in the discussion of controversial topics. His approach was always "Can I aid you?," and he always sought change in a construc-

tive rather than a destructive manner. A dedicated physician, he always put his patients' welfare at the top of his agenda. He was a great mentor for the house staff and was totally supportive of those who had committed their education and their future careers to his care. He was scrupulously fair and, by his example, he imbued those around him with a work ethic that characterized him to the very last day of his life, which he spent at work in the department. He will be missed by his wife and children, by his colleagues, and by his many trainees who admired his wisdom and his infinite capacity for friendship and counsel.

Fritz E. Dreifuss



Francesco Castellano has left us. Anyone lucky enough to know him and be one of his friends knows how he faced the fight against epilepsy, not only in his personal family life, but especially in the social field.

Together with Gilbert Van Wessen and myself, he founded the Italian lay movement in Milan, and in 1974 was the first President of the Associazione

Lombarda per la lotta contro l'Epilessia. He was responsible for the establishment and growth of other regional lay associations. After traveling throughout Italy, taking part in meetings and conferences dealing with the social aspects of epilepsy, he had the honour and the responsibility of being President of the International Bureau for Epilepsy from 1981 until 1985.

During those years he worked as only a manager can with his own business to fill the empty spaces that still separate people with epilepsy from people without epilepsy. He fought tirelessly against social injustices and ostracism. He worked for the fulfillment of a dream that unfortunately belonged to too few: to join together the International League Against Epilepsy and the International Bureau for Epilepsy to form "Epilepsy International."

Francesco Castellano, Honorary Member of the Italian League Against Epilepsy, at the time of his death Past President of the IBE, and most recently co-chairman of the scientific and advisory committee of the first Congress on Epilepsy and Society held in Rome in April 1988, leaves, with his death, a real gap that will be hard to fill unless many people assume the inheritance he has left us.

Raffaele Canger

Editor's Note—

Francesco Castellano, born in 1929, died June 2, 1988. In 1977, he joined the executive committee of IBE, first as vice-president, then president, and currently as past-president. He took great pride in being selected as a lay person to be chairman of the Epilepsy International Board. Among his honors was the Ambassador Award of EI. He brought to the epilepsy movement the many facets of his personality—the outspoken, direct, powerful international businessman in raw cotton—the devoted father (his son developed seizures at an early age)—the good friend who shared his love of life, arts, antiques, and horses—but always the dedicated fighter against the injustices suffered by the person with epilepsy.