Irvine Heinly Page, MD (1901-1991)

The departure of Irvine H. Page from the scientific and medical arena marked the closing of a golden age of American medicine. Dr. Page had often said that the advent of antibiotic drugs virtually eradicated many infectious diseases and helped orient the medical-scientific community in a new direction: toward the exploration of diseases of unknown etiologies—hypertension and atherosclerosis, for example.

Dr. Page was a scientist with great vision. In the 1920s and 1930s, he was convinced that hypertension is a disease and not simply a necessary mechanism for compensating for the lack of body perfusion produced by the aging process. The latter was the prevailing notion held by physicians of the era. Dr. Page's background in basic science led him to develop his famous "mosaic theory of blood pressure control," in which he contended that hypertension is a disease of many origins, and if any one mechanism becomes "disordered," the other mechanisms may take over unless the nature or degree of disorder is too great to be overcome.

His contributions to the field of basic research were equally important. Both angiotensin and serotonin were purified and characterized in his laboratory at The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, where he was director of research for 20 years. But his studies never stopped, since for him experimental studies were ladders leading to complete understanding of the clinical significance of these hormones or other biochemical elements. When Twarog and Page reported the discovery of serotonin in brain tissue, another major physiological area in brain research was opened. One of Dr. Page's most significant physiological discoveries was made with McCubbin and Green: they showed that the baroreceptors in the carotid sinus rapidly readjust to changes in blood pressure.

Irvine H. Page was born in Indianapolis and received both his undergraduate education and medical training at Cornell University. At the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Munich, he became interested in mental illness and brain chemistry. Upon returning to the United States, he spent several years at the Rockefeller Institute, where he began his career in cardiovascular disease research. His move back to Indianapolis led to his gathering together a group of scientists interested in the role of the kidney in the mechanism of blood pressure control. The interaction within this group of colleagues led to a multitude of contributions to our present understanding of the renin angiotensin system.

Following his retirement from The Cleveland Clinic Foundation in 1966, Dr. Page continued to read scientific literature and to edit the scientific publication *Modern Medicine*. In his last 5 years, he published two books. One was a monumental work describing the history of research in hypertension up to 1965. The other publication was his memoirs, an entertaining collection of witty anecdotes about his scientific friends, collaborators, and competitors.

Dr. Page is survived by his wife, Beatrice, and sons, Christopher and Nicholas and their families. They and those of us who knew him well will remember Irv Page as a man who inspired respect: a dedicated scientist who demanded of himself and his colleagues hard work, the highest integrity, and a philosophy of research investigation that remained attuned to the ultimate recipient of his laboratory's discoveries, the patient. He laid the foundation for The Cleveland Clinic Foundation Research Institute, and his hopes and his example still inspire our vision for the future.

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