

ANCEL U. BLAUSTEIN, M.D. MEMORIAL

The untimely death of Ancel U. Blaustein, on June 27, 1984, at the age of 64 has left a void that will be difficult to fill. Widely known as an outstanding pathologist, author and investigator, he was also an extremely capable and concerned physician with great talent as an administrative leader.

Ancel was born in Montreal, Canada, the youngest of four children. His interest in medicine began when he was 13 years old at the time of a hospitalization following an auto accident. He was hospitalized for 18 months with an osteomyelitis which left him with a disability of his right leg. The dedication and compassion he received from those who cared for him made an everlasting impression on him.

He attended McGill University where he received a B.S. in 1939 and an M.D. in 1945. He met his wife, the former Rita Leff in anatomy class at McGill and they were married two weeks after graduation.

Following an internship at the Montreal General Hospital and a fellowship in hematology at the Royal Victoria Hospital he became certified in clinical pathology in 1950 and in anatomical pathology in 1951. After appointments in Vermont and then in New York, he was appointed as the Director of the Department of Pathology at Booth Memorial Hospital upon its opening in Flushing, New York in 1957, where he was to spend his entire professional life.

There followed a period of extraordinary growth, in which he demonstrated his enormous capabilities and talents. He built an outstanding department of pathology and clinical

laboratories. He directed a residency training program in general and anatomical pathology, established an affiliation with New York University and was appointed Clinical Professor of Pathology at New York University in 1969, where his teaching skills at all levels flourished.

In his early years his interests centered on hematology and atherosclerosis and later extended to gynecologic pathology - the area in which he was to become a world renowned authority. He was the author of more than 60 articles. He authored and edited three major texts. THE SPLEEN was published in 1963. INTERPRETATION OF BIOPSY OF THE ENDOMETRIUM was published in 1980. THE PATHOLOGY OF THE FEMALE GENITAL TRACT originally was published in 1977 and this has become one of the classic texts in gynecologic pathology. Ancel was instrumental in founding The International Journal of Gynecologic Pathology and served as its first Editor-in-Chief.

Ancel was an enthusiastic and successful teacher with a clear, precise and humorous delivery. He was known for his lack of pretense, his sincerity, his innate gentleness and his interest in others. He was always available to listen, to counsel, and to console.

Ancel was a devoted family man. Rita, also a pathologist, whose love and support was so essential to him, was the light of his life. They were an inseparable couple, both at work and at home. Rita and Ancel had three daughters, Janet, Joan and Susie and their happiest moments were when the family was reunited. His mother, whom he loved and respected, recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

Excellence was the mark of his career, compassion and giving - a hallmark of his life. He was truly a clinician's consultant. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Mr. President, I would like to recommend that this memorial be incorporated into the minutes of the Society and a copy be forwarded to his widow.