

EULOGY

MARTIN CLYMAN, M. D.

PRESENTED TO

THE NEW YORK OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY

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By:

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JUST PRIOR TO THE ONSET OF THE MAJOR HOSTILITIES LEADING TO WORLD WAR II, MARTIN CLYMAN WAS GRADUATED FROM TEMPLE UNIVERSITY IN 1938, OCCUPING THE SECOND POSITION IN HIS CLASS. HIS GOOD FRIEND ALEX STEIGMAN WAS FIRST IN THAT GRADUATING CLASS. WE, AT THE MOUNT SINAI MEDICAL CENTER, WERE FORTUNATE TO HAVE BOTH THESE MEN COMPLETE THEIR PROFESSIONAL CAREERS AT OUR INSTITUTION. MARTIN OBTAINED AN INTERNSHIP AT THE PRESTIGIOUS PHILADELPHIA GENERAL HOSPITAL, WHERE, DURING HIS ROTATING INTERNSHIP, HE WON THE BURR PRIZE IN GYNECOLOGY AS A HOUSE OFFICER FOR CONTRIBUTING MOST SIGNIFICANTLY TO PATIENT CARE DURING THAT YEAR. ENCOURAGED ~~SIGNIFICANTLY~~ BY HIS MENTORS AND HIS FATHER, JOSEPH, A PRACTITIONER IN THE PHILADELPHIA AREA, MARTIN TOOK A RESIDENCY IN PATHOLOGY AT THE PHILADELPHIA GENERAL HOSPITAL WHERE HIS INTERESTS IN CELLULAR MORPHOLOGY WERE KINDLED. DURING THAT YEAR, HE COMPLETED HIS FIRST PUBLICATION WHICH INVOLVED THE ANTICATALASE ACTIVITY OF

SULFANILAMIDE AND SULFAPYRIDINE WHICH WAS THEN PUBLISHED IN THE ANNALS OF INTERNAL MEDICINE.

HE PROCEEDED TO OBTAIN AN ASSISTANT RESIDENCY AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL IN BALTIMORE IN OBSTETRICS, AND COMPLETED HIS GYNECOLOGIC TRAINING AT HARLEM HOSPITAL IN 1943. AT THIS TIME, HE MARRIED HIS WIFE, EVELYN, AND JOINED THE ARMY AIR FORCE TO SPEND MUCH OF THE REMAINDER OF THE WAR IN THE CHINA-BURMA-INDIA THEATER.

TYPICAL OF MARTIN'S DIVERSE AND COMPLETE ABILITY, HE OBTAINED A COMMERCIAL PILOT'S LICENSE IN 1938, WHICH HE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE TIME. DURING THE WAR YEARS, HE WAS FLIGHT SURGEON IN THE FAR EAST AND RETURNED TO BECOME CHIEF OF OBSTETRICAL SERVICES AT DAVIS MONTHAN AIRFIELD IN ~~TUCSON~~ BETWEEN 1945 AND 1946, WHEN HE WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE ARMY AIR FORCE AND RETURNED TO NEW YORK CITY. UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK CITY, MARTIN TOOK THE FIRST COURSE OFFERED BY GEORGE PAPANICOLAOU AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY POST-GRADUATE SCHOOL WHICH FURTHER NURTURED HIS INTEREST IN CELLULAR STRUCTURES. HE JOINED THE GYNECOLOGIC SERVICE AT THE MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL UNDER THE DIRECTORSHIP OF DR. MORRIS GOLDBERGER, AND THEN THE OBSTETRICAL SERVICE UNDER THE DIRECTORSHIP OF DR. ALAN GUTTMACHER.

SIMULTANEOUS WITH THE ABOVE, HE BECAME BOARD CERTIFIED IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY AND COMMENCED HIS LONG-STANDING INTEREST IN ELECTRON MICROSCOPY AND ENDOSCOPY.

AT THE MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL, HE INSTITUTED THE FIRST ELECTRON MICROSCOPIC STUDIES OF THE FALLOPIAN TUBE AND THE HUMAN ENDOMETRIUM. HIS EXQUISITE AND PRECISE STUDIES OF THE HUMAN REPRODUCTIVE TRACT, VIA THE ELECTRON MICROSCOPE ACHIEVED FOR HIM FIRST PRIZE IN 1959 OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY SCIENTIFIC EXHIBITS FOR DEFINITION OF THE ULTRA-STRUCTURE OF THE HUMAN FALLOPIAN TUBE. HE DISCOVERED AND ^{HAD} NAMED FOR HIM THE "CLYMAN BASKET" WHICH IS AN ULTRA-STRUCTURE APPEARING IN THE HUMAN ENDOMETRIUM CURRENTLY UNDER INTENSIVE INVESTIGATION.

MARTIN HAD LONGSTANDING INTERESTS AND ABILITY IN DEVICES AND INSTRUMENTS. HE MAINTAINED A MACHINE SHOP AT HOME AND MANUFACTURED AND INVENTED A VARIETY OF SURGICAL AND OPTICAL INSTRUMENTS ^{ONE} AMONG WHICH PROVIDED A PANORAMIC VIEW FOR THE FIRST TIME OF THE PELVIS AND FREED THE GYNECOLOGIST FROM "TUNNEL VISION". THIS CLYMAN PANENDOSCOPE ~~INSTRUMENT~~ WAS EVENTUALLY MANUFACTURED BY ^{THE} NATIONAL INSTRUMENT COMPANY AND DISTRIBUTED WORLD WIDE.

EMPLOYING THESE AND OTHER DEVICES, HE STUDIED THE EARLY EFFECTS OF ORAL CONTRACEPTIVE AGENTS ON THE HUMAN REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS, PRIOR TO AND AFTER THEIR ADMINISTRATION, DETAILING MORPHOLOGIC CHANGES NOTED VIA CULDOSCOPY. HE PIONEERED THE ENDOSCOPIC EXAMINATION OF THE HUMAN FEMALE PELVIS UNDER LOCAL ANESTHESIA AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING TO BEAR THESE TECHNIQUES FOR STERILIZATION PROGRAMS EMPLOYED IN COUNTRIES SUCH AS INDIA, EXPERIENCING PROBLEMS OF OVERPOPULATION.

DURING 1960, WELL BEFORE MICRO-SURGERY BECAME FASHION-ABLE, MARTIN HAD DESIGNED SCORES OF INSTRUMENTS FOR THIS PURPOSE, INCLUDING SPECIAL OPERATING GLASSES AND LENSES WHICH PROVIDED MICROSCOPIC AND MACROSCOPIC VIEWS OF TUBAL STRUCTURES.

SURELY IT IS CLEAR THAT MARTIN WAS NOT AFRAID OF NEW CONCEPTS, BOLD IDEAS, AND OFTEN PREVAILED WHERE OTHERS FEARED TO TREAD. HIS INTEREST IN IN VITRO FERTILIZATION WAS 15 YEARS AHEAD OF IT'S TIME. HE DESIGNED AND THEN RE-DESIGNED A VARIETY OF SILASTIC AND PLASTIC HOODS WHICH WERE EMPLOYED FOR TUBAL RECONSTRUCTION IN THE TREATMENT OF INFERTILITY. HE ALSO DE-
SIGNED AND RE-DESIGNED HIS CULDOSCOPE TO BECOME A PAN-CULDO-SCOPE AND EVENTUALLY EMPLOYED FIBER-OPTICS AND COLD LIGHT WHICH REDUCED THE HAZARDS AND INCREASED THE EFFICIENCY OF THIS NOW WIDELY USED AND UBIQUITOUSLY AVAILABLE METHOD OF EVALUA-
TION AND TREATMENT OF THE FEMALE PELVIS.

I FIRST MET MARTIN 20 YEARS AGO, WHEN HE WAS PERFORMING CULDOSCOPIC EVALUATIONS UNDER LOCAL ANESTHESIA IN THE "BACK ROOM" OF WARD U -- AT THE REQUEST OF THE RESIDENT STAFF. ALTHOUGH PHYSICAL CONDITIONS WERE PRIMITIVE BY TODAY'S STANDARDS, THE CLINICAL RESULTS WERE IMPRESSIVE. I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND AS A JUNIOR HOUSE OFFICER WHY THESE WERE NOT ROUTINE PROCEDURES, AS CULDOSCOPY SEEMED SAFER AND LESS INVA-
SIVE THAN THE STANDARD AT THAT TIME; NAMELY COLPOTOMY OR EXPLORATORY LAPAROTOMY.

THE SENIOR ATTENDINGSA^{Then} WERE PERHAPS UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE KNEE-CHEST POSITION; HOWEVER, THE HOUSE STAFF WERE NOT AND EVENTUALLY WE^{ALL} BECAM^o FACILE WITH THESE DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC MODALITIES, WITH AND EVENTUALLY WITHOUT, MARTIN LOOKING OVER OUR SHOULDER.

NOW, OF COURSE, ENDOSCOPY IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE ARMAMENTARIUM OF THE MODERN GYNECOLOGIST.

HIS COURAGEOUSNESS, INVENTIVENESS, AND SCIENTIFIC BOLDNESS IN MANY WAYS PUT HIM BEYOND HIS OWN PEERS. THESE ABILITIES, HOWEVER, BROUGHT HIM CLOSE TO THE HEARTS OF YOUNG PHYSICIANS AND HOUSESTAFF OFFICERS. HIS INVENTIVENESS WAS ASTONISHING AND EXHAUSTING. HE WAS ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO SHARE AND TEACH WHAT HE KNEW, WHY HE KNEW IT, AND HOW HE DID IT. PURSUANT TO THIS, HE GAVE SEMINARS ~~AND~~^{AND} COURSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND WAS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF A VARIETY OF SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS, TOO NUMEROUS TO RECOUNT AT THIS POINT.

IN HIS MEMORY, HIS WIFE, EVELYN, HAS ESTABLISHED THE MARTIN J. CLYMAN MEMORIAL FUND AT THE MOUNT SINAI MEDICAL CENTER TO SUPPORT FURTHER RESEARCH AND TEACHING IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN REPRODUCTION. IN ADDITION, A LIBRARY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY AT THE MOUNT SINAI MEDICAL CENTER HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN HIS MEMORY. HE IS SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE, EVELYN, A SON JEFFREY, AND A DAUGHTER, SANDRA.