Dr. Leandro M. Tocantins of Philadelphia died suddenly on March 22, 1963 at the age of 62. "Toc," as he was known to many of his friends, had evidently been suffering from angina pectoris for about a year. In his own modest way, he evidently felt that it was useless to impose his troubles on anyone, so he had been dosing himself with nitroglycerin and other medications. He died at the end of a meeting of the Academy of Medicine, where he was often a frequent speaker, moderator and participant.

Toc was a gentle soul, but withal dynamic and a hard worker. Born in Pará, Brazil, he came to the United States in 1920, studying first at Cornell, then at the Jefferson Medical School from which he graduated in 1926. He tried his hand at general practice in Cleveland for a few years, but his investigative inclinations led him back to Jefferson where he served for several years (until 1936) as a Research and Teaching Fellow. He began to work in the coagulation field and did notable work in both hemophilia and the blood platelets. He was a most emphatic protagonist of the unpopular concept that hemophilia was due to an excess of an inhibitor directed both against the formation of thromboplastin and thromboplastin itself and not simply a deficiency of AHG. He thought that identification and characterization of the presumed inhibitor, elucidation of its source and methods for its neutralization should have much more to
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offer than the preparation of concentrates for extracts of “a secondarily involved substance,” i.e., antihemophilic globulin. Unfortunately, Toc’s efforts in this direction were not very rewarding.

He was one of the first American workers in the field of the blood platelets and in 1938 wrote a monographic review for Medicine on “The Mammalian Blood Platelet in Health and Disease.” In 1936, he had already reported on the production of thrombocytopenia in anemias by the administration of a (heterologous) antiplatelet serum. Curiously enough, it remained for others, a good many years later, to connect this heterologous immunologic phenomenon with idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, which many now believe is an autoimmune thrombocytopenic disorder.

Tocantins became associated with Dr. Harold Jones, Chief of Hematology at Jefferson, and for many years was the leading investigator in that section. At Dr. Jones’s death, Toc became Chief of Hematology and Director of the Charlotte Drake Cardeza Foundation for Hematologic Research at Jefferson. Under his direction, a great expansion took place in hematology. Meanwhile, his own interests were expanding as well, as for example into the transplantation field, where his enthusiastic and wise counsel did much to develop interest in the difficult area of bone marrow transplantation. His clinical experience was highly valued by the basic workers at Oak Ridge National Laboratories, amongst them, Drs. Alexander Hollaender, Charles Congdon and the many others there.

During these busy days, he kept up his clinical interests and was in great demand in and around Philadelphia as an experienced consultant in hematologic problems. He served on many committees and panels and was one of the Associate Editors of Blood for many years. He inaugurated and edited the section on Clinical Reviews of Blood. He enjoyed doing this, since he thought these reviews might be of service to his fellow hematologists. In addition, he edited for GRUNE & STRATTON, the biennial “Progress in Hematology” which contained comprehensive reviews of timely subjects. He was a moving figure in the International Society of Hematology, the American Society of Hematology, and the National Blood Club. In short, he was one of the great figures in American and world hematology, and withal friendly, sympathetic, warm, compassionate—a fine human being and friend. Toc’s warm smile, his Portuguese accented, but highly articulate English, his democratic spirit and his lack of stuffiness linger as mementos, especially to those of us who were proud to call him friend.—

William Dameshek

SOCIETE FRANCAISE D’HEMATOLOGIE
Special Meeting

November 18, 1963, 2:30 P.M.

This next ‘Special Meeting’ of the French Society of Hematology (Chairman: Mr. J. Moulinier) will be held at Hôpital Broussais, Clinique des Maladies du Sang, Monday, November 18, 1963, 2.30 P.M. with the following program:

G. David: Exchanges of the feto-maternal blood.
D. Alagille: Hemolytic anemias of the newborn, blood incompatibilities excepted.
M. Jeune and D. Germain: Granulocytopenias and thrombocytopenias in the newborn following a bone-marrow hypoplasia.
J. Dausset: Agranulocytosis and granulocytopenias in the newborn due to fetomaternal isoimmunization.
J. Moulinier: The so-called immunologic purpuras in the newborn.
Marcel Lelong and D. Alagille: Hemorrhagic diseases in the newborn after a delayed avitaminosis K.
THE COCHEMS COMPETITION

The University of Colorado School of Medicine announces the Cochems Competition, funds for which were provided in the will of the late Mrs. Jane Nugent Cochems. A prize of $2,500 will be awarded to the author of the best paper on the subject of "Involvement of the Venous System in Systemic Disease, with Special Reference to Thrombophlebitis." The competition is open to all physicians, and entries must be received, in triplicate, on or before November 15, 1963. For income tax reasons, eligibility is limited only to those physicians who are subject to U. S. Income Tax regulations. Papers submitted in the competition may not be published until after the winner has been announced early in 1964. At that time, the winning paper and all others may be published at the discretion of individual authors. No entry blank or application is required.

Inquiries regarding the competition and all manuscripts should be submitted to Dr. John J. Conger, Acting Dean and Director of the University of Colorado Medical Center, 4200 East Ninth Avenue, Denver, Colorado, 80220.