AUSTIN S. WEISBERGER

AUSTIN WEISBERGER, at the age of 56, died suddenly of a coronary thrombosis on June 20, 1970. Before his death, he had contributed extensively in many fields. He knew that he had heart disease, but he kept it to himself and followed the advice that he had given to his own patients, that one should live a full life. The unexpected abruptness of the loss of Dr. Weisberger has made his important roles stand out vividly to those of us who had the privilege of knowing him.

A career which encompassed patient care, teaching, investigation and academic leadership is best characterized by the personable quality of Austin Weisberger's endeavors. His wide range of investigative interests extended from clinical observations and therapeutics to molecular biology. The chance clinical observation of the influence of chloramphenicol on incorporation of iron into hemoglobin focused his investigative efforts in the area of protein synthesis. These interests were closely related to his artful care of patients with hematologic and neoplastic disease.

He was an intense participant in the many activities in which he engaged, thinking deeply about them, keeping a tremendous loyalty to colleagues, students, patients, friends, and family. A lifelong association with Case Western Reserve University included the chairmanship of the Department of Medicine since 1965. As director of the medical service at Lakeside Hospital he maintained an active role in the training of students and house staff. A particular concern was the element of the students' and house officers’ responsibility for the patient. In both planning and operation of the hospital, he stood his ground to provide excellence in training for house officers, teaching of medical students and patient care.

He addressed new problems of medicine in a manner similar to his investigative efforts, with vigor and creative ability. In a dignified and professional manner, he brought a fallacious cancer cure to an appropriate end. He was in the process of exploring innovations in the delivery of health care, in training assistant physicians, in simplifying examinations for specialties in medicine and in the affairs of several medical societies.
His warmth of feeling, affection and contributions were never greater than they were with his wife Eleanor and his three daughters, Mrs. Susan Gordon, Betsy, and Mrs. Deborah Ann Paris. Austin Weisberger made a permanent contribution as a warm friend, a compassionate physician, a creative investigator, and as a leader of his many colleagues.

THOMAS HALE HAM

JOHN R. MURPHY
Obituary: Austin S. Weisberger

THOMAS HALE HAM and JOHN R. MURPHY