COUNTLESS FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES were stunned and saddened by the death of Shirley A. Johnson (Greenwalt) following surgery. Less than a month before, in Munich, we had had dinner with Shirley and her devoted husband Tibi. She was in good spirits, anticipating a trip to explore the antiquities of the English countryside, discussing the problems of traveling on an ulcer regimen and inquiring about our trip to Prague the following day. She appeared in good health, vivacious and charming as ever. Her vacation, however, was foreshortened by a sudden illness and on September 11, 1970, she died after extensive postoperative complications.

Shirley Johnson was born in Western Canada in 1922. Her father was the proprietor of a general store and he later entered the insurance business. Her mother, a teacher and social worker, encouraged her to enter the university and to do graduate work. Shirley Johnson received her Doctorate from the University of Toronto and then went to Wayne State University where she began a long and immensely rewarding association with Dr. Walter Seegers. It was during this stage of her career that she first came to the notice of the hematological community for her work on prothrombin and its conversion. As the coagulation story unfolded, it was only natural for an inquiring mind, such as hers, to consider the relationship between clotting factors and platelets. The platelet and its role in coagulation and endothelial function was to become her life’s work. The contributions of Shirley Johnson in this area are so widely known that recounting them seems unnecessary. She published widely and was a key participant in any important gathering in which platelet function was considered. She organized several conferences, published a book Coagulation and Transfusion in Clinical Medicine in collaboration with her husband Tibor Greenwalt and edited four books on platelet physiology. The first of these, The Blood Platelets, was to prove to be a landmark in a developing field. The last The Circulating Platelet was in page proof at the time of her death. It is to be issued this winter.

Shirley Johnson was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physiology at Wayne State University at the time of her marriage to Tibi Greenwalt. Thereafter, she moved to Milwaukee where she became an Associate Professor at Marquette School of Medicine and continued her work on platelet physi-
OBITUARY

ology. In 1967 she and her husband moved to Washington where he became the Medical Director of the American Red Cross. Shirley continued her work at the Veterans Hospital in Washington and was Associate Professor of Physiology at Georgetown University. She was a member of numerous societies devoted to physiology and the study of the platelets. In addition to the several books which she edited or co-authored, she was a member of the National Institutes of Health Advisory Committee on Thrombosis and a member of the Hematology Evaluation Committee of the Veterans Administration. She actively participated in the National Academy of Sciences Program on platelet physiology and thrombosis.

Shirley Johnson was a scholar, an innovative and imaginative scientist. Her careful attention to detail was evident in her experimental work and was the key to her organizational abilities. Her scientific work will remain as a monument, but her friends will remember her for her personal qualities. She was a charming and delightful person. As a scientist, she was critical both of her own work and that of others, but always constructively so. The success of a colleague was greeted with as much enthusiasm as her own. Every new task or idea was approached with enthusiasm and confidence. She was equally at ease on a lectern or as a gracious hostess, in which capacity she served so many times in Washington and Milwaukee.

Her premature death leaves a void in the community that cannot be filled. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Tibi. We hope and feel certain that strengthened by her memory and knowing what she would want him to do, he will carry his burden well and continue to contribute as actively as he has in the past.

FREDERICK STOHLMAN, JR.
Obituary: Shirley A. Johnson

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