

## 專題報導

徐千田教授紀念週年演講會

ELLIOTT 教授演講詞

### Speech of Professor Elliott in Anniversary Commemoratory Symposium for Professor C. T. Hsu.

Peter M. Elliott

First, I must thank most sincerely the Alumni of the Taipei Medical College, the Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of the Republic of China and the Directors of the Chien Tien Hsu Cancer Foundation for their generous invitation to Taipei to speak at this Commemoration Anniversary for Professor Hsu. I am acutely aware that I have been so honoured, and regard it a singular privilege. The decision to accept the invitation and make the long journey to pay my homage were associated with a sense of genuine humility because of my awareness of the greatness of the man we commemorate today. It was also made with a feeling of great sadness because this is the first occasion, in my many visits to Taipei, that I will not be seeing that grand old man with whom I was more than blessed to have had such a long friendship and for whom I had tremendous admiration and affection.

There is a passage in the Bible which says "a prophet is often without honour in his own country". I know how much the Chinese people

respect and venerate wisdom and scholarship so I don't, for a moment, suggest that Professor Hsu's worth was unrecognised in this Republic. Indeed, I am acutely conscious of his reputation and pre eminent standing among his contemporaries and his colleagues in this country and overseas. Moreover I believe that young medical people, of whatever discipline, need a sense of history and that tradition is also essential if the profession is to maintain its philosophy and standards. For this reason Professor Hsu's immense achievements and contributions, many of which were made before a large part of this audience had commenced to study medicine, should not only be recognised but recorded and have a permanent place in the lore of Gynaecology and Obstetrics of the Republic of China.

I propose therefore to offer my personal thanksgiving for his extraordinary life and reiterate its important highlights. Hopefully this may inspire and stimulate some of the younger gynaecologists in his own country to attempt to

emulate some of his great deeds. I trust it may also reinforce the memories of his contemporaries, his former students and his more junior colleagues.

Most of you will be aware that he graduated MD in Taipei from the Taihoku Medical College, then spent his immediate post graduate years in Japan. There he performed fundamental research into reproductive biochemistry, was trained in radical surgery, held an Associate Professorship and was awarded a PhD in Endocrinological Biochemistry from the Kyushu Imperial University.

He returned to this country 50 years ago, almost to the day, as Head of the Japanese Red Cross Hospital. Two years later, in 1945, he accepted an Associate Professorship in our discipline at the National Taiwan University where he proceeded to make his mark. Five years on he also accepted the position of Professor and Head of the Department of Biochemistry in the same University. These dual appointments must have been unique in academic medicine anywhere in the world. Ten years later, in 1959, he accepted chairs in both these disciplines in this University-the Taipei Medical College. These positions he held concurrently with great distinction for twenty five years; and this an even more unique achievement.

It is probably not generally known that, early in his career, he was responsible for the synthesis of the N Methyl group of amino acids, the identification of a new enzyme, demethylase, and establishing a new method for quantifying adrenal steroids. He also studied the contractility of the myometrium and demonstrated that it could be inhibited by methyl tryptamide. Another of his interests was in the placental transfer of drugs and he was able to

demonstrate that quinine crossed the placental barrier to the foetus.

Further, he identified prolactin and Beta hCG and their significance in cervical cancer and published on the significance of monoclonal antibodies in that disease. Later, he pioneered the use of methotrexate in the management of trophoblast disease, identified the tumour markers and demonstrated their importance in that group of tumours.

Notwithstanding these achievements his consuming passion throughout his life was in cervical cancer and his greatest contributions were made in the advancement of our knowledge of the behaviour and treatment of this disease. In his fundamental research he characterised some of the tumour markers, assessed their value and lectured and published extensively on the prognostic indices in that disease. Moreover, he led one of the first groups to use and demonstrate the efficacy of platinum based combination adjuvant chemotherapy in its treatment.

Until his final illness he continued his commitment, commenced as a medical student, to the pursuit of excellence in both fundamental and clinical research and to the surgery of malignant disease. He always remained relentless in this pursuit of excellence. Because of this his scientific findings continued to make substantial additions to our knowledge in the diverse fields of his interests. His scientific and clinical data were religiously and meticulously documented and published. He wrote well and prolifically and was author or co author of more than 350 scientific publications; these in both our own discipline and reproductive biochemistry. Most of his early work was published in Japanese and Mandarin and inevitably and un-

fortunately these publications lacked the universal exposure and therefore recognition they deserved. Later in his life most of his communications, nearly 100, were published in English in refereed journals and received their just acclamation.

He was always in great demand as an invited or guest speaker, not only in Asia, but in the North and South American continents as well as in Europe. In all he made over 70 invited presentations at scientific meetings throughout the world.

At the age of 70, after this extraordinary academic marathon he continued as Professor Emeritus in both his Universities. Not only that, during these years of so called retirement he retained his obsession for work and was most active clinically, in his research activities and his teaching; in sharp contrast to so many of his contemporaries in their leisurely retirement. Furthermore he accepted the position of Clinical Professor at the Veteran's General Hospital, continued with his Consultant role to the Central Government and to at least another six hospitals in this city.

His students, both undergraduate and post graduate were legion. Many of the post graduates, eminent in their own country, came to Taipei in a steady stream for the privilege of learning by watching and assisting him operate. Radical surgery he performed with consummate skill, ease and dexterity. He taught willingly, generously and with infinite patience and tolerance and often at great personal inconvenience and expense. His ability to communicate both in the operating theatre and lecture room was brilliant and legendary. His disciples will continue to remember his surgical dexterity and skills with wonder and awe and to marvel at his respect for

and magnificent tissue sense. In this respect he did, at all times, freely acknowledge his debt to the Japanese School; the mark of truly great and humble man.

During our friendship of 30 years we travelled frequently and extensively together and spent a great deal of time with each other in hotel rooms around the world. I recall one occasion when we were in New York together in 1970 at the FIGO Meeting. There I was fortunate to spend several days and nights with both he and his great friends Langdon Parsons, Ernst Navratil and Nic Louros during which they continuously discussed their "raison d'être" - radical cervical cancer surgery. They repeatedly debated this in absolute detail, with a great deal of banter, good humour, mutual respect and affection. For me it was a great education because their collective wisdom, achievements and contributions to the art of this type of surgery were immense and, one believes, will never be surpassed. The death of Professor Hsu, the sole survivor, marked the end of that era - an era also unlikely ever to be repeated.

As a committee member he had great perception and the ability, given to few, to quickly analyse the discussion and debate and invariably come up with the correct decision - often, I may add, when apparently asleep. On a number of occasions, early in our friendship, when we sat together at lectures or committee meetings, and I had thought he was sleeping I used to quietly ask him whether that was so. He invariably replied "no not sleeping, just thinking". I soon learned that he never slept but that his concentration was much more intense when he was completely immobile with his eyes closed.

Predictably he held the highest office in the profession in this country - Executive Director of

the Formosan Medical Association, and the highest in the discipline, the Presidency of the Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of the Republic.

He was one of the prime instigators in the genesis of the Asia Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in 1957. Thereafter he served the Federation not only on its Executive Board but on many of its committees until 1983 when he relinquished his position as Vice President. He remained an advisor till the time of his death.

He was also a member of the FIGO Executive Board and its Committees for many years. On both FIGO and AFOG Boards he made valiant and repeated but unsuccessful efforts to persuade the People's Republic of China to become a member of each Federation.

He perceived the need, endowed, and remained the chief benefactor of the Foundation which now bears his name for the study of and the prevention of cervical cancer. He was, and remained, an active Rotarian for most of his life and, at one time, was President of the West Taipei Club.

These substantial achievements were recognised by an Honorary Fellowship of The American College and of my own, The Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. He was the first person to be awarded the Fellowship of the Asia Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology which he had served so unstintingly.

Outside this country history will acknowledge the enormity of his academic and scientific contributions which are testimony to his great industry and intellect. I am sure that they, and his great surgical skills, will also be recorded for posterity in this country's gynaecological ar-

chives.

This catechism of Professor Hsu's achievements as impressive and historically important as it really says little of that great individual. He was huge in every respect, he was born with a superior intellect into a family of scholars and intellectuals and was motivated from an early age by a spirit of inquiry which was encouraged by his family and which continued throughout his life. His science, as was his personal life, was dictated by standards of absolute intellectual integrity and morality. He was a born leader and, like all great leaders, he led the best way; that is by precept and example. He was an extremely wise man who was blessed with wonderful hands and he unselfishly shared their skill, as he did his intellect, with all who came to him.

He was as soft and warm as he was big - indeed, all his attributes matched his large physique. He was a great family man and he told me of this love and affection for his wife in a most moving way on several occasions when we drove past his former home in the hills. He not only loved but he was also intensely proud of his children. He often spoke of them with love and with pride of their achievements and of his love and affection for his grandchildren. Yesterday I met his son Ming for the first time. He phoned my room and said he wished to meet me in the lobby and that he would be wearing a black suit. When I came out of the lift I saw a figure standing 40 metres away and knew immediately that he was his father's son. The likeness was remarkable. It could well have been Professor Hsu 30 years ago. In a different and quiet way he also demonstrated his love and affection for his brothers. It was always clear that he was the patriarch of the family and that had helped each member of

family in different ways. His giving, and he was always a giver, was performed quietly, apologetically and there were never any strings or conditions attached.

It is often difficult for doctors' families to understand and accept the responsibilities that go with that privilege and that their fathers are often torn between their responsibility to their patients on one hand that those as a parent on the other. He was well aware of this continuing dilemma, it worried him but I know his family understood.

He displayed great courage during his protracted illness during which he was never heard to complain nor did he seek pity or sympathy. During that time I telephoned him at the hospital at fairly regular intervals. He was always pleased to speak to me, and despite his pain and discomfort he never mentioned these, nor his illness and he was always cheerful.

He was a humanist and a member of that great cohort whose belief is that the vast majority of mankind is inherently good. He always acted on that premise and was most tolerant and understanding on the number of occasions when his expectations were not realised.

He had all the great virtues in abundance - courage, tolerance and patience to which I've

already referred, compassion, evidenced by his many lame dogs including the Veterans of the army whom he fostered and nurtured, extraordinary humility and this despite all his greatness. He was a most unselfish man and above all else had an ethos and mores and an integrity which were impeccable.

On a more personal level he was a warm, loyal and generous friend. Ours was a long friendship based on mutual trust, respect and affection. It was also a friendship which just carried on from where we'd left off when we had last met; the type of relationship one always cherishes because they are so rare in one's lifetime.

He was the greatest radical surgeon I've seen but more importantly, he was one of the greatest of men. I count it a singular blessing that I was privileged to have shared a small part of his life and to have been numbered, with others from Asia and other parts of the world, as one of his friends. I doubt, that in my remaining years, I shall ever see his like again. My memories of Professor Hsu that marvellous man remain extraordinarily vivid. May his life be an inspiration to many and may his soul rest in peace.