Further Section

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In Memoriam Otto Marburg

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On June 13, 1948, neurology lost one of its leaders, Otto Marburg, who died a few weeks after his 74th birthday. The external events of his life were rather simple. He was born in Roemerstadt,

Moravia, on May 25, 1874, was graduated from the Medical School of the University of Vienna (1899), there became professor of neurology in 1916, and succeeded Obersteiner as director of the Neurological Institute in 1919. Following the annexation of Austria by the Germans, he was appointed clinical professor of neurology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York (Stjw The success of his career was paralleled by the happiness of his marriage with his beloved Malvine.

Like his predecessor, Obersteiner, Marburg was chiefly interested in morphology of the central nervous system, normal, comparative, and histopathologic studies, which included classical investigations of the spinal ganglia, the pineal body, traumatic injuries of the cord, and tumors of the central nervous system. He submitted very suggestive evidence for the endocrine nature of the pineal gland and was the first *to describe the pathology and clinical course of acute multiple sclerosis (1911), demonstrating the part played by an inflammatory process in this disease. His Microscopic Atlas served as a bible to generations of budding neurologists; the four volumes set Neurology of the Ear, which he edited in conjunction with Gustav Alexander⁵, vis a standard work comparable only to Wilbrand and Sanger's Neurology of the Eye. Marburg's interests also included experimental studies, from the time when he analyzed the function of the spinocerebellar systems in Munk's laboratory. His clinical acumen was essential in the development of neurosurgery in Vienna, since Eiselsberg, the chief of the first surgical service of the University, almost never operated upon a brain tumor without asking for Marburg's advice and assistance.

The teaching and research which Obersteiner had initiated at the Vienna Neurologic Institute were brilliantly continued and further expanded under Marburg. He recognized the importance of experimental work for the future development of neurology and greatly helped in the organization of an experimental department at the Institute. Dozens of post-graduate students were attracted to the Institute every year and were stimulated by Marburg's inspiration. Volume after volume of the "Arbeiten" appeared under his leadership. Most of the papers not only represented his ideas, but were also the fruits of his zeal and industry, without bearing his name. Whoever had the privilege of working under or with him will reverently keep the memory of a beloved teacher and friend.

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