Robert Hegglin †

On 22nd November, 1969, Professor Robert Hegglin, who for 23 years was an Editor of CARDIOLOGIA, died suddenly at the early age of 62. The son of a doctor, Robert Hegglin was born in Menzingen (Switzerland) on May 5, 1907. He studied in Geneva, Berlin, Munich and Paris and in 1932 obtained his medical degree in Zurich. He went on to the Institute of Pathology at the Kantonsspital in St. Gall as a postdoctoral fellow and then to the Department of Medicine at the University Hospital in Zurich where the Director, Otto Naegeli, elicited in him a particular interest for hematology. In 1938, after Professor Naegeli’s retirement, he became senior assistant under Wilhelm Löffler. In 1944 he was appointed a lecturer at the Medical School. In 1948 he left Zurich and went into private practice as a cardiologist. In 1954 he was appointed Physician-in-Chief at the Kantonsspital in St. Gall and in 1958 was called as Professor of Medicine and Director of the University Medical Clinic in Zurich.

Since 1947 he served as an Editor of CARDIOLOGIA. In addition, he edited BIBLIOTHECA CARDIOLOGICA and ADVANCES IN CARDIOLOGY and also published numerous journal articles and books of his own, not only on cardiology but also on other aspects of internal medicine. Professor Hegglin never accepted to limit himself to one narrow specialization but always insisted on the broader view of clinical medicine. His best known opus is ‘Differentialdiagnose innerer Krankheiten’ (Differential diagnosis of internal disorders), the first edition of which appeared in 1952, and has received wide acceptance from medical students and practitioners. Professor Hegglin also pioneered the field of indicator dilution techniques in clinical cardiology. He assembled a distinguished group of collaborators and alumni, who will keep his memory alive by demonstrating the creativity of the Zurich school of cardiology.

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