A Tribute to Professor Pierre Duchosal on the Occasion of his 60th Birthday

It is with pride and affection that I salute Pierre Duchosal on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday. We have been warm friends for many years and my admiration and affection for him have grown steadily with these years. This experience of mine is but one with scores of others and I have been asked to prepare this salute simply on the basis of seniority.

Pierre Duchosal from his early youth possessed the ability, the personality, and the industry to become a leader in any field of medical science. He chose cardiology, in which at the time I was also pioneering and so our paths crossed early, especially in electrocardiography. At the time when my colleague Ashton Graybiel and I were preparing our book on Clinical Electrocardiography, Professor Duchosal was already working on the vector, and I well remember my first visits to him in Geneva where I saw his interesting models, a considerable step ahead of the efforts that Sidney Burwell of Boston, later dean of the Harvard Medical School, and I had made, with the help of mathematical experts at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to construct adequate formulas for the vector in space. That was in 1920. The intricacies of the problem discouraged us and we did not then pursue the subject. But Pierre was not so easily discouraged and is, I believe, in large part responsible for the later development of the specialty of vectorcardiography in its present form.

But this was but one of the many interests of Pierre Duchosal. In the first place, besides being a teacher and investigator, Pierre has been a superb clinician, caring for thousands of private patients who have sought him because of his diagnostic skill, his excellent therapeutic advice and his humanity. He has always been high in the councils of the International Society of Cardiology, having been the first secretary-general of the Society, elected in Paris in 1950, vice-president for four years, from 1958 to 1962, and then finally president, elected in Mexico City in 1962.

We of the International Cardiology Foundation, in particular Professor Louis Katz of Chicago and myself who started that organization, have kept in close touch with Pierre Duchosal as we