In memoriam

Enrico Greppi
1896-1969

Prof. Enrico Greppi who died suddenly on February 7th, 1969, was born in 1896 in Bologna of Lombard origin. In 1921 he qualified in Medicine in Florence. He was assistant Professor of Medicine in Pavia and later in Milan and was made Professor of Clinical Medicine at Catania University in 1933 after which he went to Siena and finally returned to Florence in 1939. He published over 200 papers on many subjects of internal medicine: the physiopathological and clinical aspects of diseases of the spleen; atypical hemolytic jaundice; arterial hypertension; headaches and migraine; diabetes; atherosclerosis; metabolic diseases in presenility. In 1950 he founded in Florence the Società Italiana di Gerontologia e Geriatria of which he was an active and enthusiastic president; in 1957 a course in gerontology for medical students was started in the University of Florence and in 1961 a Post-graduate Medical School in Gerontology and Geriatrics was opened which developed into a full Chair in 1963. Professor Greppi was an internationally known figure in his field and was one of the founders of the International Association of Gerontology (1950). He was president of the 4th International Congress of Gerontology (Meran and Venice, 1957), president of the 4th Meeting of the European Clinical Section of the Int. Ass. Gerontology (Sanremo, 1965). He attended and read papers in all the European and American International Congresses of the Association. Professor Greppi was a collaborator of ‘Gerontologia’ from the time of its foundation.

My contact with professor Greppi began as a medical student in 1945, and later on as his assistant in the Department of Clinical Medicine, but my closest work with him was in the field of international gerontology. His enthusiasm gave a tremendous stimulus to research and training in Gerontology and Geriatrics not only in Florence but in all Italy. I like to recall his rich personality, his sensitivity and his simplicity, his wide culture and multiplicity of interests, his brilliant conversation, his love of music and his happiness in his family life, all of which made him a great man and a great physician. During these intensive years of teaching, research and practice, he gathered around him many students who all remember him with respect, affection and admiration.

Ario Zilli