Editorial

Nathan W. Shock

Dr. Nathan W. Shock, a member of the editorial board of the experimental section of our journal since 1971, died on November 12, 1989, at the age of 83. Dr. Shock was internationally recognized as one of the founding fathers of modern gerontology. For over half a century, he has been a pioneer and leader in the field which today takes on ever-increasing importance as our society grows older. In 1941, Dr. Shock joined the first research program on aging within the National Institutes of Health, housed at the Baltimore City Hospitals. When he retired as scientific director of the National Institute on Aging, he had developed this unit to a total staff of more than 200 investigators and guest scientists. He was one of the first scientists to see the importance of using longitudinal methods to study human aging and in the 1950s established the Baltimore Longitudinal Study. Today over 1,000 volunteers are actively enrolled in this unique study.

Dr. Shock's contributions to the growth and development of the field of gerontology are not only counted in research and training but extend to his many years of dedicated service to the development of professional organizations. He was president of the Gerontological Society of America (1960–1961), editor-in-chief of the Journal of Gerontology (1963–1968), and president of the International Association of Gerontology (1969–1972). He was author or coauthor of some 350 scientific publications dealing with the physiological, biochemical and behavioral aspects of human aging. He established and edited the Classified Bibliography of Gerontology and Geriatrics, published in the Journal of Gerontology (1950–1980). This labor of Dr. Shock has proved to be an invaluable resource to many a student and researcher from various disciplines in the field of gerontology. In his 18 years on our editorial board, he was an invaluable referee and critical judge of manuscripts submitted to him. We shall feel his loss severely.