James Thomas Case 1882–1960

J.T. James T. Case
p. pioneer
i. internationally renowned radiologist
d. died in
Santa Barbara
C. California
M. May 24
1. 1960
a. age 78
o. of metastases from carcinoma of the colon. He was born in
San Antonio
T. Texas
o. on January 5
1882. When he was six years old his family moved to Los Angeles
California. H. Here he
received his high school education. He proved to be an outstanding ambitious student. He took many extra courses including Latin, Greek, Spanish, shorthand. He was graduated in 1899 at age 17. He decided to be a medical missionary and entered the American Medical Missionary College in Chicago in 1901. He received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1905. While still a medical student, in 1903, he began to work in X-ray diagnosis. He also became assistant to Dr. John H. Kellogg, Chief Surgeon of the Battle Creek Sanitarium, Battle Creek, Michigan. After receiving his medical degree, he was appointed to the surgical staff of that institution and was Chief Surgeon from 1919 to 1929. He became the radiologist of the Battle Creek Sanitarium in 1907.

In 1902, while in medical school, he traveled in Europe with Dr. John H. Kellogg in the capacity of secretary, attended lectures and clinics, and began the study of German and French. Later he made repeated visits to Europe, including Russia. Between 1911 and 1914 he contributed 14 papers to the medical literature, two in British and three in German journals. Before the First World War he was awarded honorary membership in the Austrian, the German and the Scandinavian Radiological Societies. A few months before his death he received a Gold Medal commemorating fifty years of honorary membership in the Societe Franchise d’Electroradiologie. He later became an honorary member of the Royal Society of Medicine, of the British Roentgen Society, and was awarded an honorary Diploma in Medical and Radiological Electrology by Cambridge University.

He was fluent in Spanish, and travelled repeatedly and extensively in Latin American countries where he gave many lectures and conferences and received many honors. He was Chairman of the Delegation from the United States to the Second, Third and Fourth Inter-American Congresses of Radiology. He was President of the Fifth Inter-American Congress which was held in Washington in 1955. At the Sixth Inter-American Congress, Lima, 1958, he was given a silver tray engraved, “Al Dr. James T. Case, Embajador de la Radio-logia en America.” He received high honors from the governments of Cuba, Mexico and Peru, and honorary membership in radiological and surgical societies of twelve Latin American countries. The June, 1960, number of the Radiologia, the official journal of the Radiological Society of Panama, is dedicated to Dr. Case. This journal suggests to the Inter-American College of Radiology that steps be taken to erect a bust of Dr. Case in the Garden of the Pan American Union in Washington, D.C.
During the First World War he was “Director of Roentgenology” for the American Expeditionary Forces in France. He worked with and became the life-long personal friend of Antoine Beclere. In 1960 he was awarded the Gold Medal of the Centre Antoine Beclere. He was a “Founding Member” of the American Radium Society in 1916, its President in 1924 and gave the Janeway Lecture in 1959. In 1920 he was President of the American Roentgen Ray Society, established the Caldwell Lecture and gave this lecture in 1939. He

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was President of the American College of Radiology in 1929, and served for many years as Chairman of its Committee on International Affairs. During his career he received several gold medals.

In 1916 he was appointed editor of the American Journal of Roentgenology; this assignment was interrupted two years later by his military service.

He contributed over 150 articles to the medical literature. Between 1951 and 1954 he edited and participated in the translation from German to English of the large four volume text book by Schinz, Baensch, Friedel and Uhlinger, entitled in English, “ Roentgen Diagnostics”. In 1956 he translated the classic text book by Khhler and Zimmer, entitled “The Borderline Between the Normal and the Abnormal in Skeletal Roentgenography”.

Dr. Case was appointed Professor of Radiology at Northwestern University in Chicago in 1912 and became Emeritus Professor in 1947. This University gave him its Centennial Service Award in 1959 and also an Award of Merit from its Alumni Association.

In 1951 he moved from Chicago to Santa Barbara, California, where he became the Director of the Memorial Cancer Foundation and continued to practice radiation therapy.

In 1959, the James T. Case Foundation was established by the Department of Radiology of the University of California at Los Angeles. The objective of this Foundation is to assist young physicians to obtain training in radiology at this institution.

James Thomas Case was endowed with extraordinary intelligence and with tireless energy, both intellectual and physical. His work in radiology spanned 57 years. A great radiologist and contributor to medicine has departed but his career was an outstanding example of selfless devotion to his profession and to international understanding and human relationships.

Ross Golden (Los Angeles, Calif.)

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