Obituary

Henri René Olivier †

H. R. Olivier died in Paris on December 12, 1967, at the age of 72 years. He was Intern at the Hopitaux de Paris in 1922, Professor at the Department of Medicine of l'Ecole de Médecine at Dijon in 1938, and lecturer in Biology at the Medical Faculty in Paris in 1943. He was the holder of several scientific diplomas (Hygiene, Bacteriology, Biological Chemistry) and a Founder Member of the Collegium Internationale Allergologicum. In collaboration with his teacher, Fiessinger, he edited ‘Diagnostics biologiques et fonctionels’, a standard work in the field. He dedicated the last 15 years of his life to his principal work ‘Traité de Biologie Appliquée’, which covers all important aspects of our present knowledge in this field, and could only have been conceived by an encyclopedic mind like his. Three volumes have been published so far. The fourth was almost completed before he died and will soon appear. The fifth was planned in detail by him and will now be edited by his students and friends.

Olivier’s work as a medical practitioner and consultant in internal medicine was enlivened by his passion for research to which he dedicated his whole life. His capacity for work was inexhaustible. The words vacation and leisure did not mean anything to him. His pioneer work on B. subtilis and anti-metabolites are well known. He published many papers on the function of the liver, the physiology of respiration, arterial hypertension and renal insufficiency, bacteriology and immunology of tuberculosis, chronic thallium- and arsenic intoxication, measurements of heart function, and biological and chemical studies of spas.

His main clinical field was endocrinology, but during the last 15 years of his life he also did a considerable amount of work on allergic diseases; an important chapter of his ‘Traité de Biologie Appliquée’ deals with allergy. At La Bourboule (a spa which owes to him its present fame) and at the ‘Institut Prophylactique’, where he was a consultant in Allergology, he was particularly interested in the allergic and physiologic aspects of asthma. Much of his work on pulmonary ventilation had been published in these Archives. His last publication tackled the question of the role of allergy in the intolerance against contact lenses.

He will be remembered not only for his scientific achievements but also for his helpfulness, kindness and never-failing friendship. R. Panzani, Marseille