Prof. B. Daicker [†]

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Basel

With the passing of Prof. Daicker the 'Augenspital' has lost an exceptional ophthalmic pathologist and the University of Basel a highly regarded scientist and beloved teacher. Born in Basel in 1932, Basil Daicker attended primary and secondary schools there. In 1958 he concluded his medical studies with the state board exams. His promotion to Doctor of Medicine took place during his residency in Ophthalmology at the Eye Clinic of the University of Basel. With his morphological dissertation in Ophthalmic Dermatology, he demonstrated an early interest in the pathology of the eye and its adnexa. At the University Eye Clinic in Munich and the University ENT Clinic in Basel, he rounded out his education.

After Professors Rintelen and Roulet had aroused his interest in Ophthalmic Pathology, Basil Daicker became Head of this Department at the Basel Eye Clinic in 1965. Under his guidance the department gained international recognition. He was a universally acclaimed diagnostician and always easily established a connection between the ophthalmic pathological findings and the patient's history and the course of his disease.

As a university lecturer he was loved and admired equally by his students, colleagues, and fellow clinicians. He was noted for his rhetorical and didactic expertise, as well as his ability to interest his listeners even in unattractive topics by stimulating their emotional involvement in the subject. He was able to explain complicated matters simply, meaningfully, concretely, yet precisely.

According to his students, his lectures were among the best in the Medical Faculty.

Basil Daicker brought Ophthalmic Pathology to a high scientific level. In 1970 he attained his 'venia legendi' at the University of Basel with a widely recognized monograph on the morphology and pathological changes of the peripheral ocular fundus. His research activities reached their zenith in his investigations on retinal diseases, particularly those which can lead to retinal detachment. Thus, he was able to elucidate the form and meaning of various fundus diseases which were considered to be predisposing to the development of retinal detachment. For these contributions he was awarded the Alfred Vogt Prize (1970) and the Graefe Prize (1979). Since

1973 he was a regular member of the internationally regarded Ophthalmic Pathology Society (DOP). In 1985 the EOPS Meeting was held under his chairmanship, and from 1991 to 1993 he acted as administrative chief of the EOPS.

In addition to his activities as ophthalmic pathologist, Basil Daicker was 'Oberarzt' at the clinic as well and director of the tumor clinic of the Eye Clinic of the University of Basel. With his extensive knowledge, he was able to support the clinician and practitioner in their care of such fatefully ill patients. At this point special thanks and recognition should be expressed to Prof. Daicker. The coworkers of the Department of Ophthalmic Pathology would also like to express their gratitude; some of them were able to work with Prof. Daicker for over 30 years.

At the end of 1995 Prof. Daicker went into well-earned retirement. He had many plans and new ideas to accomplish. Time for that was not forthcoming: on Easter Monday, 8 April 1996, his strength failed forever. A life was over, filled with conscientiousness and fulfillment of duty, a life full of devotion, inquisitiveness, and inexhaustible energy.

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