

Carl H. Smith

July 14, 1895 — April 23, 1971

Dr. Carl H. Smith, professor of clinical pediatrics, emeritus, of Cornell, and consultant pediatrician to the New York Hospital, died on April 23, 1971. His death is a poignant landmark in the development of the pediatric department. For more than half a century Dr. Smith had been a devoted member of the New York Nursery and Children's Hospital and the Medical Center, and wholly dedicated to the Department of Pediatrics and to the institution. He was one of those gifted persons possessing a rare admixture of intellectual and personal attributes which on the one hand made him an able clinician and a superb investigator, an inspiring teacher, and a notable author, and on the other hand, a good husband, a devoted father, a loyal friend, and a fine human being.

Professionally, Carl Smith's knowledge was encyclopedic, his curiosity insatiable, his judgment sound, his wisdom Socratic, and his spirit indomitable. His contagious enthusiasm, his gift of expression, and his rich humor stimulated his peers and his students.

There are two distinctive traits which especially characterized Carl Smith. One was humility exemplified by the aphorism, "knowledge is proud that he has learned so much; wisdom is humble that he knows not more." The second trait was a sense of intuition which closely bordered on serendipity. Dr. Smith was fully able to take advantage of fortuitous circumstances and it was this faculty that explained in large measure his many medical discoveries.

Professional recognition came to Carl Smith in many forms. He was an active member of eleven national scientific and medical organizations and he held important posts in many of them. He was a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Pediatrics*. He is credited with being a founder of the new specialty of pediatric hematology and he established the pediatric hematology unit of New York Hospital where, in 1944, he introduced the first out-patient transfusion clinic in the United States. In 1952, friends of his founded the Children's Blood Foundation, which has since then generously supported Dr. Smith's work and now supports the Division of Pediatric Hematology. He was the author of the classic textbook, *Blood Diseases in Infancy and Childhood*, now in preparation for its third edition, and of more than one hundred scientific papers in medical journals. Amongst his many honors, he was elected to membership in Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Omega Alpha; he received the Townsend-Harris Medal conferred by the City College of New York; and he was the recipient of the Order of Merit conferred by the Republic of Italy.

His talented and devoted wife Peggy was an active collaborator in Dr. Smith's medical writing. His son, Carl H., Jr., is a member of the Department of Pathology at Washington University, St. Louis, and his daughter Christine is a social worker who lives in San Francisco.

Few such professional careers have aroused so much admiration from so many. The Pediatric Department, the institution, his associates and his patients will long remember him and note his passing with sadness.

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