

Cornelius Packard Rhoads

June 20, 1898 — August 13, 1959

Cornelius Packard Rhoads, Professor of Pathology in the Department of Biology and Growth of the Sloan-Kettering Division of the Cornell University Medical College, died suddenly at his home in Stonington, Connecticut, August 13, 1959. Dr. Rhoads was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, June 20, 1898. After receiving a Bachelor's degree from Bowdoin he graduated *cum laude* from the Harvard Medical School in 1924. Various internships and graduate fellowships followed. An instructorship in pathology at Harvard preceded his joining the staff of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, first as associate in pathology in the laboratories of Dr. Simon Flexner and later as associate pathologist and member of the Institute in charge of a laboratory dealing with hematologic disorders.

With the erection of the new Memorial Hospital buildings on a site provided by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and largely with funds provided by the Rockefeller Foundation, the board of Managers of Memorial planned to develop an institution where clinical investigation by experimental methods would have a predominant position along with pure laboratory research in the field of cancer. With the retirement of James Ewing from the directorship of Memorial the position was offered to Dr. Rhoads because of his great interest in clinical instigation. He came to Memorial in mid-1939 and officially assumed the directorship on January 1, 1940. He had scarcely begun his task when the war came and Dr. Rhoads assumed the position of chief of the medical division of the Army's Chemical Warfare Service, with the rank of Colonel. This position in turn introduced him, by casualty studies, to the possibilities inherent in the nitrogen mustards as chemical agents for cancer treatment. Cancer chemotherapy became his principal interest for his remaining years.

In 1945 Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., determined to build an institute for cancer research on land adjacent to the Memorial Hospital, and in 1948 the Sloan-Kettering Institute was opened. Dr. Rhoads was director of what had become the Memorial Center for Cancer and Allied Diseases until 1953, at which time he relinquished a portion of his activities, assuming the title of scientific director of the Center and director of the Sloan-Kettering Institute. The Center grew; it added the Strang Clinic, the James Ewing Hospital, and lastly the new Walker Laboratory of the Sloan-Kettering Institute. The Sloan-Kettering Division of the Medical School was set up. Arrangements were made for acceptance of graduate students and candidates for advanced degrees who would work within the Institute.

Dr. Rhoads was a member of many professional scientific societies, the recipient of many awards and of three honorary doctorates—two of sciences, one of laws. He was a trustee of the Charles F. Kettering Foundation.

The present American Cancer Society owes much of its being to him as the rejuvenator of the virtually extinct American Society for the Control of Cancer. He was a man of enormous energy and capable of a huge amount of work, but even these attributes could not withstand the demands made upon him. We know of no man about whom it can be more justly said that he worked himself to death.

Fred W. Stewart