

# Elliot Hochstein

*November 10, 1908 — May 2, 1971*

Elliot was a gentle man, endowed with a brilliant mind, an inner strength, and the capacity to love. His concern was for his fellow man and he directed all of his energies to that end. Tireless in the pursuit of his duty and of what he thought was right, he did not complain even in the torment of his last illness; instead he lamented his inability to complete the many things yet undone.

He used to a full measure his extraordinary intellectual endowment. Born in New York City, he received his early education at Townsend Harris High School, a three-year preparatory school for specially gifted students. He was graduated from Columbia College, third in his class and member of Phi Beta Kappa, he received his Doctor of Medicine degree from New York University-Bellevue Medical College in 1932. Like many others during the dark days of the depression, he began his career in general practice. He served with distinction as a medical officer during World War II. In the years that followed, he became an expert in his craft, a preeminent clinician, whose counsel was sought by his colleagues. He was appointed to the faculty of the Medical College and began his association with The New York Hospital in 1950.

Elliot was always in tune with the most recent advances in medical research because he wisely recognized that the cornerstone of the clinical art was their application to patient care. At the same time, he held the conviction that without the laborious teaching of that art, the great tradition of American medicine would suffer. In the agony of his last illness he talked with me and with others of his concern about this as though he were possessed by it.

Elliot was a great teacher. He had great knowledge and his thirst for more was insatiable. He had unbounded enthusiasm for teaching the young. His ability to communicate was strengthened by that rare ability to transmit his own enthusiasm to his students. When he could not find a suitable textbook for his class, he wrote *Physical Diagnosis* with Cornell's Dr. Albert Rubin. It was derived from his vast experience as a practicing physician and teacher and is clearly destined to be a classic.

In his courses, he introduced the use of new audiovisual aids and created innovative teaching techniques. For the last twenty years, most students of Cornell University Medical College have considered his course in physical diagnosis to be the high point of their medical education.

For a physician who was so actively engaged in teaching and practice, he produced a remarkable number of academic papers on subjects ranging from his major field of heart disease to a study of the rupture of the spleen in malaria and a clinical classification of hypothyroidism.

He was an honorary member of Alpha Omega Alpha, the medical honor society; a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine; a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, the New York Academy of Medicine, and the American Medical Association. He was also a member of the Bethesda Conference of the Committee on Standardized Terminology of the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association.

We are grieved at Elliot's untimely passing, yet we must take comfort from what he has meant to each of us. His life was an inspiration, and we have all been enriched in some way by his presence among us.

He is survived by his wife, the former Rose Korchin, and a daughter, Mrs. Amy Friedman of Boston, Massachusetts.

*Aaron Feder, M.D.*