IN MEMORIAM

Saul R. Korey, M.D.
1918—1963

On September 27, 1963, Dr. Saul Korey, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, died after a brief, devastating and painful illness. He was 45 years old—in the full flower of an eminent and highly productive career.

The son of a physician, he had entered Cornell University at the age of 16 years. When he learned that he could be accepted at a medical school at the end of his sophomore year he went to the University of Western Ontario from which he graduated highest in his class. After interning at City Hospital of New York, he served for 4 years in the armed forces. On discharge, he came to the Neurological Institute of New York where, in his second year, he was an outstanding chief resident. Those of us who knew him then remember him as showing all those qualities which distinguished him forever after: An uncompromising honesty; a meek, comfortable, compromised position; a noble and inquiring mind; a seeker after fact, disdainful of artefact, prudence, fancy, or the traditional point of view.

Then and there he decided that the etiologic and pathogenetic answers to neurological disease did not lie in refining the analysis of the natural history of eponymic disorders. Rather he thought that a new neurology and neuropathology, must consist of an understanding of the chemistry of the nervous system. Therefore, he devoted himself for three years to the study of biochemistry under the tutelage and as a coworker of such distinguished men as Drs. Severo Ochoa and David Nachmansohn. In 1952 he became Associate Professor of Neurology at Western Reserve University School of Medicine and, when the Albert Einstein College of Medicine opened in 1955, he became its first professor of neurology.

In eight years here he had accomplished more than many men do in a lifetime: He set up an extensive research program combining neurochemical and neuropathological studies of Tay-Sachs disease, multiple sclerosis, etc. He ran a first-class clinical service. He was the prime mover, administrator and guiding spirit of the Interdisciplinary Program in the Nervous System and Behavior which supported fellows, provided research training in many departments of the medical school, and organized symposia. At such symposia he would sit near the front of the hall, his tilted, massive head supported by his hand, asking the search-
ing question, uncovering camouflage, seeking out the truth. Finally, he was the chief spirit behind obtaining support for the research building of the medical school, now almost completed.

As befits such an energetic, intelligent, and magnanimous person, he was honored both locally and nationally—President of the Association for Research in Nervous and Mental Diseases, member of the editorial board of four journals (including *Psychosomatic Medicine*), member of the Neurology Study Section of the National Institutes of Health.

Early in his career he published an extensive review of pituitary adenomas with John Nurnberger, with especial emphasis on the metabolic changes which characterize them. Later, with the same co-author, he edited *Progress in Neurobiology*. His early works were on factors influencing the permeability of axons and brain cells, on choline acetylase, and, via a study of phospholipids and gangliosides, the metabolism of neuroglia and thus, myelogenesis. These latter topics were of paramount interest to him because of his search for the basic disturbance in multiple sclerosis. In the past three years he had papers published on Heller's, Creutzfeldt's, and Tay-Sachs' disease, culminating in a series of articles combining neuropathological and neurochemical studies of brain biopsy specimens in the latter disorder. Electron microscopic studies (done with R. D. Terry) had revealed for the first time distinctive membranous cytoplasmic bodies in Tay-Sachs' disease, which were extensively described, analyzed, and exquisitely illustrated in their reports. Distinctive biochemical findings were also reported—a deficiency in the degradation of gangliosides, and a lowered content of free amino acids in the brain.

To the clinic he brought his active, analytic, inquiring, restless mind. He was a first-class clinician, clinical teacher, and diagnostician. The conventional limits of clinical neurology were, however, too confining. He felt that the neurologist had a unique opportunity to study changes in behavior which accompany neurological disease. And his interest in and knowledge of behavior ranked along with that of neurochemistry.

It is one's sad duty in an obituary such as this to present, if possible, some measure of the man. None of the foregoing—the dry recital of facts about his achievements—has done so. Dr. Korey left an indelible mark on all those who knew him. If his public manner at times seemed brusque and gruff, privately he was the most generous, generative, and supportive of men. He was a devoted husband and father. Those close to him were dedicated to him, not because he exacted devotion, but because he inspired in others standards of excellence and a desire above all for the truth. In a day when so many are self-consciously concerned with the "image they project," Saul seemed almost like a reincarnation from a long-since vanished age in which the only values were hard work, knowledge, excellence, courage, honesty, loyalty, passion, and dedication; there could be no compromise with or dilution of these. He had a zest and lust for life and an intense interest in all of nature, but Man in particular. "Man is the thing," he wrote, "his life and death, his biologic cycle, his works and thought..."

In his final public address—as the chief speaker at the Alpha Omega Alpha dinner in May 1963—characteristically entitled "The Myth and the Passion," he wrote that the physician must be "committed to the passion of life—and committed with a passion." He wished on this occasion to dedicate other and younger physicians and rededicate himself to being "l'homme engagé." For he argued that men could be divided into two categories—one, like Sisyphus, peren-
nially and actively toiling upward toward the ever-receding goal and unattainable end; the other, passively watching on the sidelines or ambling behind the first. For the ultimate truth and absurdity, he wrote, is that "one does and dies or one does not and is killed."

Saul was above all one who did. The cruel tragedy is that he died too early. Because it can truly be said that he was a Man, and that his kind is only too rare, he will live in our memories until memory itself has faded.

HERBERT WEINER, M.D.