

Obituary

Edward B. D. Neuhauser, M. D.

Dr. Edward Blaine Duncan Neuhauser died peacefully in his sleep on 27 September 1987, in his eightieth year. After an M.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania, he interned at the Pennsylvania Hospital, intending to become an orthopedic surgeon. During residency, however, disenchantment with orthopedic routines set in, the crowning blow being a family of 5 children, all needing to have their slightly flat feet checked. Seeking more stimulation, he began training in radiology. In 1941, without completing his residency, Dr. Neuhauser became director of radiology at Children's Hospital in Boston. Some of his seniors advised him not to take the position, radiology of children then consisting of little more than rickets and pneumonia; a man of his promise would soon exhaust any ephemeral interest the field might offer. He therefore accepted the position on a 6-month trial basis but in fact was Radiologist-in-Chief at that hospital until his retirement 33 years later.

And thus began the phenomenal period of great excitement in which Dr. Neuhauser, in company with Dr. John Caffey at Babies Hospital in New York and a growing band of their associates, established pediatric radiology as a scientific discipline. Some of the subjects clarified by his scientific papers were cystic fibrosis in its many presentations, meconium peritonitis, vascular rings, the roentgen manifestations of leukemia, diaphyseal dysplasia, the etiology of Hirschsprung's disease, alimentary duplications, diastematomyelia, Wilms' tumors, tricuspid atresia, effects of radiation therapy on bone, atrial septal defect, idiopathic hypercalcemia, hypophosphatasia, neurenteric cysts, total anomalous pulmonary venous drainage, renal tubular ectasia, pulmonary hypertension, the phenomenon of total body opacification, pulmonary dysmaturity in small prematures, the effects of muscle stress on vertebral growth, Wolman's cholesterosis of the adrenals, injuries to the osseous growth plate, aspiration pneumonitis in childhood, arachnoid cysts in Hurler's disease, and the bony manifestations of copper deficiency. His flair for teaching was promptly recognized by medical students, residents, and practicing radiologists, who came from all over the world to spend time in his department.

About 30 years ago it became evident to Dr. Neuhauser and Dr. Caffey and their colleagues in pediatric radiology that this growing body of common interests



and knowledge would be furthered by formal organization. In 1958 the initial meeting of the Society for Pediatric Radiology was held, Dr. Neuhauser being its first President. Since 1971 its meetings have been graced by the Neuhauser Lecture. In 1964 he became a founding member of the European Society for Pediatric Radiology.

Dr. Neuhauser was President of the American Roentgen Ray Society in 1959. In his 1952 Caldwell lecture to that society, entitled "Growth, Differentiation and Disease," he laid out the applications of pediatric radiology to those phenomena. The Mead Johnson Award of the American Academy of Pediatrics was given jointly to him and to Dr. Orvar Swenson for their elucidation of the pathogenesis of Hirschsprung's disease. For work in the diagnosis and treatment of Wilms' tumor he shared the Jurzykowski Award in Medical Science with Dr. Sidney Farber and Dr. Robert Gross. He himself lost track of his many other prizes, lectureships, and visiting professorships.

Dr. Neuhauser's major avocation was the Grenfell Mission, begun by Sir Wilfred Grenfell in the last century

to provide medical care to the people of Labrador and northern Newfoundland. Dr. Neuhauser visited Newfoundland and Labrador frequently, at first giving medical care himself to the scattered inhabitants of that ice-battered coast, later assisting with advice and direction. Because of his knowledge of arctic medicine he was sent by the Hudson's Bay Company to inspect its various outposts in 1951. He spent the summer of 1965 as consultant to the government of Denmark visiting the medical facilities in Greenland and comparing the systems there with those of northern Canada.

To his colleagues, Dr. Neuhauser's most striking attribute was his sparkling brilliance. He was one of the great intuitive diagnosticians. He seemed to have his own systems of perception, unique senses and synapses not possessed by ordinary mortals. He was perfectly prepared to be unorthodox. Sometimes solutions to clinical problems occurred to him in the middle of the night or on awakening, as if his internal computer were busy while the rest of him slept. Another essential characteristic was his ability to run a happy department. His willingness to delegate responsibility, his generous praise, and his genuine interest in his associates' non-medical activities made being part of his department a joy. He always encouraged his associates to excel in their own way, not in some fashion decreed from above. Credentials interested him very little; a man's ability and performance, not the weight of his curriculum vitae, earned his respect. A third central

trait was his joy in life and in his work. He carried his responsibilities lightly, and this led to a contagious good feeling around him. His boyish enthusiasms caused a fellow department head to call him the world's oldest living child. He embodied the maxim that what one enjoys, one does well. If the radiologic problems of the day began to pall, he discussed gourmet cooking with his residents and students, or arctic exploration, or concepts of tumor growth, until all were refreshed and the work at hand regained its charm.

Dr. Neuhauser retired in 1974, becoming Senior Consultant in Radiology at Children's Hospital and Emeritus Professor of Radiology at Harvard. His summers thereafter were spent in Blue Hill, Maine; his winters were in Boston, consulting on obscure radiological problems, teaching and participating in courses at the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement, and pursuing the interests of a lifetime. But he was unable to alter the central theme of his career, most aptly stated on his gold medal from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia: "Quippe qui numquam immemor esset puerorum;" "he who indeed was never unmindful of children."

Dr. Neuhauser is survived by his widow, the former Gernda von Briesen, 2 sons, and 4 grandchildren. He will be remembered by innumerable friends and colleagues as a remarkable physician and a unique human being.

Thorne Griscom

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