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EDITORIALS

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DR. JOSÉ M. M. FERNÁNDEZ

PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY ASSOCIATION (1963-1965)

The death of Dr. José M. M. Fernández on July 21, 1965, will have come as a profound shock to his many friends all over the world. To us who have had the privilege of working with him, his loss is irreparable.

It will be remembered that last year, on his return from London, Dr. Fernández suffered a stroke and had to be admitted into hospital. His friends and colleagues hoped that he would recover sufficiently to guide the International Leprosy Association actively once again, but this was not to be.

To me personally, Dr. Fernández' passing means the loss of a highly revered professional brother, for our friendship spanned a period of almost thirty years. I first met him in Cairo in 1938 at the IVth International Congress of Leprosy, and since that date meeting Dr. Fernández at the various International Congresses has been a privilege and one that I shall always remember.

In dermatology, as well as in leprology Dr. Fernández' name has ever been held in great respect. He was a man of outstanding personality, great integrity and professional competence. During a certain trying period in the political history of his country his courage, his intellectual and scientific honesty, and his straightforwardness and willingness to stand up for his principles resulted in a time of strain and stress and the loss of professional appointments. Dr. Fernández has always upheld those principles in medicine which are the basis of our profession and without which the Hippocratic oath is a mere repetition of words of no significance.

In research and its application to the field of medicine Dr. Fernández was outstanding. His name will always be associated with the early lepromin reaction, known as the Fernández reaction. Always a prag-

matist, for his concepts of the principles of dermatology and leprosy were always geared to the practical, he had little use for theorizing on questions that had no application to his daily work.

Dr. Fernández' work and life have encouraged many of his countrymen, and men of science throughout the world, to continue and enlarge their own endeavors. We all owe much to his leadership. I personally remember his kindly smile and his enthusiastic welcome. His very handshake inspired confidence. Even as I write this, I can visualize him now, separating himself from his colleagues and coming forward to shake hands with me in that manner that endeared him to us all.

Dr. Fernández' leadership in the International Leprosy Association and his preeminence in the field of dermatology were greatly admired, and his opinions among his professional colleagues eagerly sought.

Our dear friend, we salute you as one of the great dermatologists and leprologists. We pay our respects to you as a beloved colleague. We mourn your loss and to your wife and family we extend our heartfelt condolences.

Ave et Vale!

ROBERT G. COCHRANE