

OBITUARIES

Esmond Ray Long, M.D., Ph.D.

1890–1979

Editor, INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY, 1964–1968



Dr. Esmond R. Long was born on 16 June 1890 in Chicago, Illinois. His father, Dr. John Harper Long, was Professor of Chemistry at Northwestern University and one of the pioneers in the field of physiological

chemistry in the U.S.A., publishing several books and many original articles in this field.

In 1906–07 he received private instructions in chemistry from his father and his father's associates. It is very probable that this experience led to his later association with Dr. H. Gideon Wells, which resulted in the writing of several comprehensive texts on the chemistry of tuberculosis.

His education was interrupted from 1913 to 1919 because of pulmonary tuberculosis. During convalescence he worked at the Saranac Laboratory, Saranac Lake, New York, where he commenced his researches in tuberculosis.

Dr. Long received a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1919 and graduated in medicine from Rush Medical College (University of Chicago) in 1926. After graduation he joined the staff of the Department of Pathology, University of Chicago, where in 1928 he attained the rank of Professor. In 1932, he was appointed Professor of Pathology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and the Director of Laboratories of the Henry Phipps Institute for the Study, Treatment and Prevention of Tuberculosis, a department of the University of Pennsylvania. He was appointed Director of the Institute in 1935, a position he held until his retirement in 1955. At the Phipps Institute,

Dr. Florence Siebert, working with him, developed purified protein derivative (PPD), which was accepted worldwide as a replacement for old tuberculin.

Dr. Long's career in chemistry, pathology, tuberculosis, and education is too extensive and his awards and honors too numerous for all to be recorded here.

For the benefit of current workers in leprosy, salient features of his editorship of the JOURNAL are recorded. Because of his contributions to leprosy and the International Leprosy Association (ILA) all workers in leprosy will be interested in the following historical account of his editorship of the JOURNAL.

Dr. Wade in an editorial (Int. J. Lepr. 32 [1964] 71–72) introduced the new editor by recording a few of Dr. Long's many accomplishments that qualified him for the new task.

"As an author, he collaborated with H. Gideon Wells in writing a book on the *Chemistry of Tuberculosis*, the first edition of which was published in 1923. A second edition appeared in 1932 and a third in 1958. In 1928 his *History of Pathology* was published and in 1929 his *Selected Readings in Pathology* (second edition in 1961). In 1955 his *Tuberculosis in the Army of the United States in World War II* was published and in 1962 his *History of American Pathology*.

His editorial experience has included, among other things, years of membership on the Editorial Board of the *American Review of Tuberculosis*. He was Editor-in-Chief of that journal from 1947 to 1951 and remains as Consulting Editor for the periodical, now designated the *American Review of Respiratory Diseases*. He was Special Editor for Medicine for the Second Edi-

tion of *Webster's International Dictionary*.

Although his interests have included the mycobacteria in general, his principal contact with leprosy work, before now, was as a member of the Advisory Medical Board of the Leonard Wood Memorial from 1932 to 1948. During part of that time he was concerned in a directing capacity with experiments sponsored by the Memorial on separation of leprosy bacilli from heavily infected tissues."

Dr. Long was 73 years old when he became editor of the JOURNAL. After his retirement from the Phipps Institute he and Mrs. Long had made their home in the beautiful countryside near Pedlar Mills, 20 miles from Lynchburg, Virginia, and approximately 200 miles from the home office of the JOURNAL in Washington, D.C.

Arrangements were made for him to establish his editorial office at the Leonard Wood Memorial in Washington where he could work directly with Miss Delta Derrom, Assistant Editor, and confer frequently with the printer, Mr. John Ferguson III, of the Monumental Press in Baltimore.

As an experienced editor and author who had over many years developed the capacity for working rapidly and efficiently, he began the task of preparing not only the Congress number for October–December 1963 but also of completing the unfinished issues for 1963.

As often as necessary he travelled to Washington by train or automobile, always taking many manuscripts and proofs to his home in Virginia for further work. To avoid uncertainties of travel, during the winter months, Dr. and Mrs. Long closed their home in Virginia and at their own expense occupied an apartment in Washington.

Dr. Long maintained the basic features and style of the JOURNAL that Dr. Wade had established in 1933 and in editing adopted many of Dr. Wade's precepts. He retained the Current Literature section, a feature that over the years has enabled readers to keep informed of the salient publications in leprosy. He took great pains to assist those who submitted papers with scientific merit but whose native language was not English. He tactfully suggested changes

in their manuscripts to conform to the style of the JOURNAL.

In an editorial (Int. J. Lepr. 33 [1965] 899–900) Dr. Long observed that the scientific investigation of leprosy had always profited from advances made in studying other mycobacterial diseases. He cited the leads obtained for the investigation of *M. leprae* through the understanding of the unique growth requirements of the etiologic agent of Johne's disease. He mentioned the current interest in the recent identification of *Mycobacterium ulcerans* and *Mycobacterium balnei* (now called *M. marinum*) for purposes of differential diagnosis of leprosy and because of the low temperature growth requirements of these mycobacteria. With these facts in mind and the practical interest of broadening the readership of the JOURNAL, he recommended to the Editorial Board that the subtitle "and other mycobacterial diseases" be added. The Board and the Council gave approval for this title change. The first issue of IJL 34, 1966, carried the title *THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY And Other Mycobacterial Diseases*.

In the same editorial Dr. Long related that the Editorial Board in the interest of economy and to facilitate reading had approved the use of a double column format for the JOURNAL. This was initiated in IJL 34, 1966, and was well received by the readers.

During his tenure with the JOURNAL, Dr. Long edited proceedings of two important conferences that were published in the JOURNAL at the expense of the conveners.

The first of these was the Leonard Wood Memorial/Armed Forces Institute of Pathology Conference on Research Problems in Leprosy, held at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, D.C., 11–14 May 1965. Dr. Long, as consultant to the Leonard Wood Memorial, had taken leadership in planning this conference, which was unique because scientists working with *M. leprae* and those working with other etiologic agents were invited to meet together to focus on unsolved problems in leprosy, particularly cultivation and transmission to animals. In this conference approximately 100 U.S. and 32 scientists from other countries met together. Its proceedings, so superbly edited by Dr. Long, had

substantial impact on the research programs planned later that year by the Leprosy Panels of the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Programs.

The second was a Symposium on Sulfones. Although sulfone drugs had by that time been in use for 25 years, the first conference on the pharmacologic action and metabolism of the sulfones was sponsored by the U.S. Leprosy Panel of the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Program at the USPHS Hospital in San Francisco, 11 May 1967. Dr. Long, who participated in this symposium, edited the proceedings and published it as Part 2 of IJL (October-December) 1967. At this symposium, based on studies in the mouse foot pad, isolates of *M. leprae* were reported resistant to DDS (Rees, R. J. W., Int. J. Lepr. 35 [1967] 625-638), thereby for the first time announcing that experimentally *M. leprae* had shown resistance to sulfones.

Because Dr. Long in his books, *History of Pathology* and *History of American Pathology*, had demonstrated exceptional ability to assemble and portray essential facts in the records of past events in science, Mr. Cyril I. Crowther, President of the Leonard Wood Memorial (LWM), in 1966 requested him to write the history of the LWM. Dr. Long had been among the eight distinguished scientists who in 1932 were appointed by Mr. Perry Burgess, then president of the LWM, to serve on an Advisory Committee on Research for this foundation, chartered four years earlier.

In the subsequent third of a century, Dr. Long had retained his interest in the research programs of the LWM. With his characteristic efficiency and thoroughness Dr. Long prepared an interesting record of salient events of the LWM, entitled "Forty Years of Leprosy Research—History of the Leonard Wood Memorial (American Leprosy Foundation) 1928-1967" (Int. J. Lepr. 35 [1967] 239-309). The costs of publication and printing were borne by the LWM.

Dr. Long, a gifted writer on scientific subjects, a basic scientist in biochemistry and pathology, and a lifelong student of mycobacterial diseases, in each issue of the JOURNAL published one or more editorials, and during his editorship a total of 30 appeared on a great variety of subjects of

timely interest to members of the International Leprosy Association. In these editorials, Dr. Long's skills in presenting ideas and data interestingly and with clarity and brevity are evident. Examples of the varied subjects covered are: Interrelationship among Mycobacteria, Macrophages in Leprosy, BCG Vaccination, Control Trials in Chemotherapy of Leprosy, Bacterial Genetics, and Social Stigma of Leprosy.

Dr. Long, accompanied by Mrs. Long, attended the IX International Leprosy Congress, held in London 16-21 September 1968. He participated actively in the scientific sessions where he met personally many who had contributed articles to the JOURNAL while he was editor. At this Congress, he, as Chairman, and Dr. Byron S. Tepper, Co-Chairman, conducted a two day Workshop on the Cultivation of *M. leprae*, sponsored by the LWM. The participants in this Workshop represented the principal laboratories around the world where cultivation of *M. leprae in vitro* and/or transmission to animals were being attempted. The Workshop adopted six criteria required for the identification of a mycobacterium as *M. leprae*. These criteria have been used widely in evaluating possible multiplication of *M. leprae in vitro* and in identifying noncultivable mycobacteria found in infections in primates and armadillos.

At this London Congress an important change in the fiscal management of the JOURNAL was made. The LWM had continued the fiscal management of the JOURNAL since 1933 and met the annual deficit. During the last two years of Dr. Long's editorship the "open end" policy of meeting the JOURNAL's deficit became of considerable concern to the fiscal office of the LWM. Although Dr. Long had been successful in increasing the circulation and reducing the printing costs by adopting the double-column format, a substantial deficit remained.

At the London Congress the Finance Committee that had been appointed to study the financing of the JOURNAL, after consultation with Dr. Long and the Board of Trustees of the LWM, recommended to the Council that on completion of IJL 36, 1968, the "open end" support by the LWM be terminated and the International Lep-

rosy Association assume full responsibility for the fiscal administration of the JOURNAL.

The LWM and other organizations generously provided support through grants so that by 1 January 1969 adequate funds were on hand to continue publication. Thus, after more than a third of a century, the ILA finally became completely responsible for the fiscal management of its JOURNAL.

Before the London Congress, Dr. Long had informed the Council that having attained the age of 78 he would not be eligible for reappointment as Editor. After the Council appointed Dr. Olaf K. Skinsnes to succeed him, Dr. Long offered to assist the new editor in any way he could and was appointed Editor-Emeritus.

Within a year after becoming Editor Emeritus, Dr. Long's services were sought by Prof. E. Freerksen, Director of the Borstel Institute for Experimental Biology and Medicine, Borstel, Germany. This institute for many years had been doing basic research with mycobacteria, particularly *M. tuberculosis*. Because of the many unsolved problems in leprosy, Prof. Freerksen had planned an international Colloquium, "Leprosy Today," to be held at his institute on 26-27 August 1970.

To assure that the proceedings of the Colloquium would reach the largest number of leprosy workers worldwide, Prof. Freerksen was advised to request its publication in the IJL, and he sent a letter of inquiry to the JOURNAL. Dr. Long, on being told of the inquiry, responded that after World War II, as consultant on tuberculosis to the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army, he had assisted Prof. Freerksen in re-establishing the Borstel Institute. Dr. Skinsnes was agreeable to having the proceedings published as a supplement to the IJL if financially supported by Prof. Freerksen and if Dr. Long would agree to be the U.S. editor.

Dr. Long, after establishing communications with Prof. Freerksen, agreed to serve as U.S. editor for the IJL. Dr. J. Thumim of the Borstel Institute was appointed as co-editor to represent the Institute.

Prof. Freerksen in his opening address to the Colloquium closed by saying,

"Finally, for me it is a lucky chance to have contacted again one of my oldest

friends, Prof. E. R. Long from Washington. Only a few people know that he was able to manage it decisively nearly 20 years ago so that a Forschungsinstitut Borstel exists today. His mind, characterized by humanity, loyalty, objectivity and courage, removed all obstacles regarding the situation and conditions of that period. As co-editor of this Colloquium, Prof. Long is stepping forward on the way he once started."

This valuable international Colloquium consisted of approximately 75 papers and talks by practitioners and research workers. Many of the subjects were presented informally with lantern slides. The editing was extremely tedious because of language difficulties and re-arranging the informal talks so that they would comply with the format and style of the JOURNAL. Dr. Long, who normally was a very rapid editor, spent 800 hours in editing this Colloquium. The end result, however, "Leprosy Today," was an attractive, well illustrated, easily read publication of 490 pages printed as a supplement to IJL 39 (April-June) 1971.

In this review of salient features of Dr. Long's editorship, no attempt has been made to discuss the content of the papers published. Dr. Long had taken the editorship when the publication was nearly a year behind, and many authors were hesitant to submit manuscripts. In a short period he brought the publication up to date with the result that workers in leprosy again sought publication of their papers in the JOURNAL.

Dr. Olaf K. Skinsnes, who followed Dr. Long as Editor, aptly stated "Dr. Esmond R. Long presided as editor during a golden period in the JOURNAL's history (Int. J. Lepr. 42 [1974] 64-67).

Dr. Long, a friendly, cheerful, genial person, avoided criticism and animosity in dealing with people. He looked for the best in everyone. The staff in the Office of the Leonard Wood Memorial in Washington always looked forward to the days when he and Mrs. Long would arrive.

Mrs. Long (nee Marian Boak Adams) had been his helpmate and companion since their marriage in 1922. She had provided him a congenial home life and maintained

keen interest in his scientific work and writings. Dr. Skinsnes in her obituary (Int. J. Lepr. 42 [1974] 456) graciously eulogized her role in her husband's productive career.

Dr. Long was author or co-author of 12 books. At the age of 87 he published the *History of the Department of Pathology—University of Pennsylvania—A Review of 100 Years*.

Among Dr. Long's special honors were election to the National Academy of Sci-

ence and the American Philosophical Society. He also received many prestigious awards among which were the Gold-Headed Cane of the American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists and the Philadelphia Book Award.

Dr. Long is survived by his son, Esmond R. Long, Jr., of Rednor, Pennsylvania, and his daughter, Mrs. Judith L. Neal, of Arlington, Massachusetts.

—Chapman H. Binford