

MAT 00453

In Memoriam

On September 27, 1987, Robert B. Greenblatt passed away. Robert had been Honorary President of the International Menopause Society since 1981. He had been its first president from 1978, when the Society was founded, until 1981.

Robert Greenblatt was born on October 12, 1906 in Montreal, Canada. He studied medicine at McGill University in that same city, where he graduated in medicine in 1937. In 1937 he was appointed Assistant Professor of Pathology and Gynaecology at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta, Georgia. He served at the College until 1974, most of the time as Professor of Endocrinology. In 1970 he received a *honoris causa* doctorate from the University of Bordeaux in France.

Robert Greenblatt served on the board of many journals, as well as on many committees, societies and medical boards; he received numerous awards. In June 1987 he became Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in the United Kingdom. He published over 600 scientific articles and contributed 90 chapters to various books. For 18 years, he was the author of the article on Advances in Endocrinology for the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. He authored or edited 23 books. His specific contributions to medicine were numerous, far too many to mention each individually. He discovered the ovulation inducing properties of clomiphene, he was one of the first to point out that the ovaries are a source of androgens, he demonstrated that cortisone induces ovulation in amenorrhoeic, hirsute women and he was the first to suggest the sequential form of oral contraception.

Robert Greenblatt was not only a great scientist and the father of reproductive endocrinology, he was also a gifted speaker. There will be few readers of this Journal who have never been among his audience.

Professor Greenblatt's demise is a tragic loss, not only for his wife and children, for the International Menopause Society and, in fact, for the whole scientific community, but also for the group of women who had a special place in his heart: women after the menopause.

Dr. Pieter A. van Keep
Executive Secretary
International Menopause Society
Founding Editor *Maturitas*