MARION B. SULZBERGER, M.D.
DR. MARION B. SULZBERGER

FOREWORD

By GEORGE MILLER MACKEE, M.D.

Dr. Marion B. Sulzberger will be 60 years of age on March 12, 1955. The Journal of Investigative Dermatology, of which he was one of the founders, has taken the occasion of this milestone to pay tribute to this outstanding, internationally known American dermatologist. The articles in this anniversary issue are contributed by invitation. They are written by staff members, residents, former students and leading dermatologists of this and other countries. As with the other such festschriften, this issue was gathered without Sulzberger’s knowledge and it is intended that the compliment be a surprise to him.

I would like to mention only a few of Marion Sulzberger’s important achievements. A more detailed biography is contained in the following pages of this issue.

In the first World War Sulzberger was a member of the Naval Reserve during which time he earned his wings as a naval aviator and was an instructor of aviation. He was a naval reserve officer between the two wars. He entered the Second World War as a Lieutenant Commander and was discharged with the rank of Captain. He continues to hold a commission in the Naval Reserve.

In 1947 the Navy awarded Sulzberger a citation for services rendered to the United States Naval Reserve.

In the same year he received The Certificate of Appreciation of the War and Navy Departments for his contributions to the Office of Scientific Research and Development. In 1948 he was decorated by the French Government, being made Commander of the Star of Anjouan for his war-time service to France overseas.

In 1949 Captain Sulzberger received from the President of the United States through the Office of the Secretary of the Navy, the Legion of Merit with the following permanent Citation:

“For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States from December 1941 to January 16, 1946. Assigned as the responsible investigator on Medical Research on the treatment of gas casualties, Captain Sulzberger organized and directed research teams which tested and aided in the development of materials for use against mustard, lewisite and other poison gases. In addition, he set up standards, conducted research and assisted in the introduction of programs for the protection of personnel in arsenals and manufacturing plants for poison gases. One of the world’s outstanding dermatologists, he applied a wealth of technical knowledge and experience as well as keen scientific insight and analytical methods to the development of new and more effective methods for the early treatment of burns and wounds; tested insect repellents and contributed to their improvement and aided in the selection of those now in use; and developed and tested, introduced and perfected the present standard Army and Navy general issue materials for the prevention and treatment of fungous infections of the skin. While serving with the United States Naval Medical Research Unit $2 on Guam, Marianas Islands, he carried out research which helped to classify the causes and fundamental facts concerning several tropical skin diseases and similar ailments, and published several articles on the causa-
tion, prevention and treatment of skin diseases occurring among personnel in the tropics. His outstanding contributions to medical science and his exemplary devotion to duty throughout this period reflect great credit on Captain Sulzberger and the United States Naval Service.”

On July 6, 1949, he delivered the Prosser White Oration before the St. John’s Hospital Society at the Royal Society of Medicine. He gave an excellent, informative, stimulating, well-received address entitled: Allergy: A Dermatologist’s Reminiscences and Speculations. The article was published in the British Journal of Dermatology and Syphilis for February, 1950 (Vol. 62, pp. 53–70).

In 1949 the Skin and Cancer Unit became the Department of Dermatology of the New York University-Bellevue Medical Center and Sulzberger was appointed Chairman. In this department all the teaching of dermatology to undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate students is given. The staff consists of 140 dermatologists, many of whom are outstanding, 13 residents, a large number of nurses, technicians, secretaries and clerks. In addition to private and semiprivate rooms, there are 2 wards and 90 free beds. There are adequate clinical and research laboratory facilities, several part-time and full-time research workers and 85,000 patient visits a year. During the past five years, in addition to undergraduate students, there have been 150 long-term and 352 short-term matriculates, many of whom came from foreign countries.

Obviously, the Director of this large unit must be a good organizer, have research ability and ideas, be a good clinician, an inspiring teacher and have supervising ability. Sulzberger has proved himself worthy of this honor and, like other leading dermatologists, he has endeavored to advance our knowledge and to prevent our major specialty from becoming a minor subdivision of general medicine. The work that he is doing as head of this organization constitutes a contribution of the highest value to American Dermatology.

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