

TRIBUTE TO DOCTOR HERMAN BEERMAN

When Richard Stoughton informed me that he was planning an issue of this Journal in honor of Herman Beerman my enthusiasm and delight were unlimited. For seeing a dear friend so justly honored is a most welcome event. But when Dr. Stoughton asked me to contribute a *laudatio* for my friend, I was abashed and somewhat conscience stricken. What did I really know about Herman, his life, his accomplishments?

It was only when faced with this request that I realized how remiss I had been, how I had allowed my daily tasks to prevent me from finding out more about the man I regard as one of my most trusted friends. I cannot give you the list of Doctor Beerman's positions of responsibility and accomplishments, the dates and places of his life, nor the titles in his bibliography of over 200 scientific works, but I shall try to express something of what I feel about Herman Beerman.

Doctor Beerman was the Chairman and Director of one of our country's earliest and most respected institutions devoted to post-graduate training in dermatology. He was thus not only my "opposite number", whom I saw and consulted regularly during many years, but also a leader in the formerly neglected, but now highly regarded and expanding efforts at continuing education for physicians.

Herman is a superb administrator, a fine teacher, and one of the world's leading authorities on such divergent aspects of our specialty as syphilology, histopathology, nevi and tumors.

Since 1938, he and his collaborators have regularly published in the American Journal of Medical Sciences review articles on these and a wide variety of other important fields of dermatology and venereology. These reviews are objective, authoritative, inclusive and lucid—in other words models of what reviews should be. But these and other professional accomplishments which have made Doctor Beerman an acknowledged leader among dermatologists are not what I best know about him, not what I really want to say about him. What I know best is that when the Society for Investigative Dermatology and its Journal were just getting out of their swaddling clothes, Herman Beerman and Naomi Kanof became its

foster parents. He, as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Society for Investigative Dermatology from 1950 to 1951, and Naomi as the Editor of its Journal, reared the toddlers until they became an established and vigorous force for dermatology and for investigative medicine throughout the world—used, admired and even serving as models for new investigative Societies and Journals in many countries. It was my great pleasure and satisfaction to watch with admiration and gratitude the dedication, the acumen, the gentleness combined with firmness, the generosity tempered by husbandry which Doctor Beerman displayed in rearing this, not always docile, infant prodigy.

But this, too, is not exactly what I most want to say about my friend. His is truly an almost universal genius. Incomparable husband to his nonpareil wife, Emma; devoted parent and grandparent to Mariette and her children, patron of the arts, as witness his friendship with many sculptors, painters and with that great musician, Eugene Ormandy; conscientious citizen taking his full responsibility in his neighborhood, his city, his state and country; expert on legerdemain and magic and on those deathless chapters of English literature which are the domain of the Baker Street Irregulars—these things I know about his scope and versatility, his catholic tastes and gifts.

But these, too, are not exactly the main things I want to tell you about Herman Beerman. In the past 7 years he has been on the Board of Directors and functioned as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Institute for Dermatologic Communication and Education. The production and circulation of the Institute's now 52 motion pictures for dermatologic education would not have been possible without Herman's guidance, prudence and wisdom, his courage and vision. I cannot recall how many times my wife, Bobbie, the Executive Secretary of the Institute, and I have traveled to Philadelphia or met with Herman elsewhere, to get his help in solving some knotty problem of policy, of fund raising, of direction.

The steadiness of his support and the soundness of his counsels have never failed us nor others, and all these contributions have been given freely and without monetary recompense.

For he has donated his time and talents to almost every contemporary endeavor for the advancement of dermatology. Wherever one looks, one finds that Herman has been the solid worker for the improvement of our specialty, the progress.

It is no wonder then that Herman Beer-
man, *in vivo*, has been honored as no derma-
tologist before him, by lectureships, fellowships
and prizes bearing his name, by Presidencies,
Chairmanships, portraits and grants.

I hope that among all these honors, this
issue of the Journal he has so effectively sup-
ported will take a place of high rank in his
regard. And I fondly hope that he will feel

as I do, that of all goods things I could say
about Herman, none can surpass these simple
statements which will be echoed by many: I
am proud to call him friend. I rejoice in his
well-deserved honors. May he enjoy his active
life for many decades to come—for his sake,
for the sake of our specialty, for the sake of
all mankind.

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