

OBITUARIES

Professor Gregory Goodwin Pincus

GREGORY PINCUS, who died on August 22, was born in Woodbine, New Jersey, on April 9, 1903. He received his B.S. from Cornell University in 1924 and both his M.S. and Sc.D. degrees from Harvard in 1927. After graduation he served as a Fellow of the National Research Council for three years. In 1931 he became assistant professor at Harvard in the department of general physiology of Professor W. J. Crozier, and in 1938 he went to Clark University as a visiting professor of experimental zoology, holding a Guggenheim Fellowship from 1939 to 1941.

In 1944 he and I established, at Clark University, the entirely independent Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology, and we have served as its co-directors since its foundation. This institute has become a distinguished centre of biomedical research and postdoctoral training.

Pincus' work in the field of endocrinology has been very notable. He was responsible for new methods of steroid analysis. He and his collaborators conducted many studies of stress in relation to adrenal cortical functions; studies of the role of steroids in cancer of the breast and of the reproductive system; studies of steroid hormones in relation to cardiovascular disorders and also in relation to problems of human ageing. During the mid-1930's his work on mammalian reproduction produced the first parthenogenetic mammals—rabbits that had mothers but no fathers. He was a pioneer in producing multiple ovulation in animals and in transplanting animal ova from females producing the ova to females that carried and developed the embryos to term. Since 1950 his work on the control of fertility has had widespread repercussions with regard to the "population explosion". He was the principal investigator in the development of the first successful oral contraceptive and he and his group continued to investigate a number of steroid contraceptive agents.

Pincus was chairman or a member of many important national committees and of international conferences and congresses. He was a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the National Academy of Sciences. He was a member or honorary member of physiological and endocrinological societies throughout the world. He was the recipient of numerous prizes, including the Oliver Bird Prize for 1957, the Albert D. Lasker Award in Planned Parenthood, 1960, the Sixth Annual Julius A. Koch Award, 1962, the Modern Medicine Award for Distinguished Achievement, and the City of Hope National Medical Center Award, both in 1964, the Cameron Prize in Practical Therapeutics (University of Edinburgh) in 1966, the Barren Foundation Medal also in 1966, and the American Medical Association Scientific Achievement Award in 1967. He had also been made an honorary professor at the San Marcos University in Lima, Peru.

His books include *The Eggs of Mammals*, published in 1936, and *The Control of Fertility*, published in 1965. He was the author of many scientific papers and served on editorial boards of *Experimental Biology Monographs* and the *American Journal of Physiology*, and was editor or co-editor of books such as *Hormones and the Aging Process* and *Hormones and Atherosclerosis*. He was co-editor of five volumes entitled *The Hormones* and he was consulting editor to *Life Sciences*.

Dr D. Ewon Cameron, past president of both the American Psychiatric Association and the World Psychiatric Association, wrote, in the *New York Times*, concerning the contributions of Pincus in the field of fertility control: "Few contributions to medical knowledge have done so much to bring to women everywhere a sense of worth and dignity".

HUDSON HOAGLAND

Appointments

PROFESSOR B. KATZ, professor and head of the Department of Biophysics at University College, London, has been appointed a member of the Agricultural Research Council on the retirement of Professor T. A. Bennet-Clark.

Announcements

DR L. H. TURNER of the Leptospirosis Reference Laboratory of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London, WC1, is acting as convener of a group of 40 people concerned with the taxonomy and nomenclature of the order Spirochaetales. One possibility is that the group may eventually become a taxonomic sub-committee under the aegis of the International Committee on the Nomenclature of Bacteria. Persons wishing to be associated with the project should write to Dr Turner.

NOMINATIONS are invited for the Beilby Medal and Prize which is awarded annually to a British scientist in recognition of his work in such fields as chemical engineering, fuel technology and metallurgy. Further information can be obtained from the Convener of the Administrators, Sir George Beilby Memorial Fund, The Royal Institute of Chemistry, 30 Russell Square, London, WC1.

NOMINATIONS are invited for the award of the Meldola Medal which is made annually to the British chemist under the age of 30 who shows most promise in his or her published chemical work. Further information can be obtained from the President, The Royal Institute of Chemistry, 30 Russell Square, London, WC1.

THE opening meeting of the 61st session of the Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene will be held at Manson House, 26 Portland Place, London, W1, on October 19 at 7.30 p.m. Further information can be obtained from the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene at the above address.

Meetings

PEAT and Organic Soils, September 25–27, Southport (Mr H. T. Davies, North of England Soils Discussion Group, Department of Soil Science, National Agricultural Advisory Service, Government Buildings, Lawnswood, Leeds).

GRANITES and Basement of North-Eastern Brazil and their Comparison with those of West Africa, October 1–14, Recife, Brazil (M. J. Lombard, Secrétaire Général de l'Association des Services Géologiques Africains, 12 rue de Bourgogne, Paris 7e).

ULTRASONICS, October 4–6, Vancouver (R. L. Guthrie, Boeing Scientific Research Laboratories, P.O. Box 3981, Seattle, Washington).

SINGLE-CELL Protein, October 9–11, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Single-cell Protein Conference, Room 16–325, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts).

ANALYTICAL Chemistry in Nuclear Technology, October 10–12, Gatlingburg, Tennessee (C. K. Tipton, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, P.O. Box X, Oak Ridge, Tennessee).

PHYSICS of Selenium and Tellurium, October 12–13, Montreal (Selenium-Tellurium Development Association, Inc., 11 Broadway, New York, NY).

DENTAL Medicine, October 12–14, High Tatras Mountains, Czechoslovakia (Secretary of the Congress, Dr J. Ležovič, Bezručova 5, Bratislava, ČSSR).

APPLICATION of Automation in the Process Industries, October 16–17, Amsterdam (The Institution of Chemical Engineers, 16 Belgrave Square, London, SW1).