

Acceptance of the Howland Award

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Mr. President, Ladies, and Gentlemen:

I wish to thank Kurt for the very kind words that he said about me. I appreciate them very much indeed.

I am very grateful to the American Pediatric Society for choosing me as the 1982 John Howland Medalist. To be placed in the group of distinguished pediatricians who have received this award is certainly the greatest honor of my professional life, and I wish to express my sincere thanks to our Council and to our membership.

In 1952 Edwards A. Park was chosen as the first John Howland Medalist. Kurt has spoken about the very great influence that Dr. Park had on my personal life and on my professional career. He certainly was the greatest teacher that I have ever known. He was a great inspiration to all of us who were his students and colleagues, and we did our very best to live up to the great trust he placed in us. We had the greatest admiration and affection for him. Some of us, who were very tall and athletic like him, adopted his manner of walking and standing. Those of us who did not qualify in this way tried to imitate his calm, slow and quiet way of speaking.

Dr. Park's greatest pleasure came from the success of his students and young colleagues. A good diagnosis or a timely suggestion brought a pat on the back; or if you were of the proper relative height (as I was), you received an affectionate pat on the head.

We were always impressed by Dr. Park's keen interest in all branches of science. These included chemistry, biology, botany, ornithology, and ichthyology. His interest in entomology turned out to be very fortunate for me. On one occasion he asked me to attend an evening lecture given by a visiting entomologist. The

lecturer was to describe a method for raising colonies of mosquitoes from newly-laid eggs. I was asked to make notes, which I was then to transcribe into the Department's "Medical Notes," which Dr. Park edited with great care. I naturally paid very close attention to that lecture, although I could see very little connection between my work and growing mosquitoes. But a few years later, during World War II, in the middle of the Pacific Theater, I found great use for the lecturer's methods in our work on the epidemiology and control of Japanese encephalitis.

Kurt has also mentioned that Dr. Joseph Stokes was another of my teachers whom I greatly admired. Stokes was in many ways a man ahead of his time. His early efforts at the control of poliomyelitis foreshadowed later events. He spoke out strongly against all forms of discrimination, long before it became fashionable and safe to do so.

As I began to write out these remarks, I realized that the John Howland Award may be infectious, because so many of my teachers and faculty colleagues have acquired it. Included in this group (in addition to Dr. Park) are Joseph Stokes, Bela Schick, Lawson Wilkins, John Caffey, Emmett Holt, Rustin McIntosh, Helen Taussig and Albert Sabin.

Kurt has described the partnership that my friend Zeppy and I have had for nearly fifty years. I regret that the state of her health did not permit her to come here today. Zeppy is part of our family, and she is very much in our thoughts always.

In conclusion, Kurt referred to the fact that Anne and I have enjoyed more than a half century of a most harmonious married life. A marriage as happy as ours, blessed by wonderful children and grandchildren can only have been made in heaven.

Mr. President, Ladies, and Gentlemen, I thank you.