

OBITUARY

Professor Marian Weiss, M.D., Konstancin, Poland

(late Associate Editor of *Paraplegia*)

We were deeply saddened to hear of the tragic and premature death of Professor Marian Weiss when we attended the Annual Congress of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia in July 1981, at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury, Bucks, England. I was expecting to see Professor Weiss at this Conference, having met him in April of this year at the Third European Regional Conference of Rehabilitation International in Vienna.

I have visited the Metropolitan Rehabilitation Centre at Konstancin, Poland, which was established by Professor Weiss as a comprehensive rehabilitation unit; and he in turn visited my own hospital and also the Japan Sun Industries. While visiting my hospital, he performed the Weiss Spring Dynamic Alloplasty operation



to allow me to see how this operation was done. We also had discussions on the rehabilitation of spinal injury patients.

Professor Marian Weiss was born at Kalisz in 1921; this is a town which is situated in the north-west part of Poland. He graduated from the Medical Department of Lvov University, which is now in Soviet territory. As an orthopaedic surgeon, he specialised in the rehabilitation of patients with spinal injuries, and dedicated his working life to the initial treatment and rehabilitation of the spinal injured. He made significant contributions in research and in practical treatment, and was appointed Head of the Konstancin Rehabilitation Centre.

In 1960 I was fortunate to have studied with him at Stoke Mandeville Hospital under the direction of the late Sir Ludwig Guttmann. I cherish the remembrance of those days.

Professor Weiss was a great man, very hardworking and at times somewhat argumentative. He was very proficient in foreign languages, speaking five of them fluently. He was very knowledgeable regarding medical electrical appliances, and was an expert photographer. He was also a very good gourmet cook, having prepared our meals on many occasions.

Because of his great achievements, in 1967 he was appointed Chairman and Professor of the Rehabilitation Department, Warsaw Academy of Medicine, Konstancin, Poland. I think it was about this time that he grew a beard, making him look very majestic. He travelled all over the world making great contributions in the field of spinal paralysis wherever he visited. His work 'Early Therapeutic Social and Vocational Problems in the Rehabilitation of Persons with Spinal Cord Injuries' remains on my desk as a constant reminder, together with his smile.

May he rest in peace.

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