Obituary

Dr. Gerald Loewi

Dr. Gerald Loewi died suddenly and tragically on October 3. He was born in Nuremberg in October 1922 and came to England with his parents in 1935, refugees from the already well established Nazi tyranny. Although he never admitted it, this uprooting from his own country left a deep scar which received further aggravation when in 1940 he was interned as an enemy alien while in his 18th year and still at school. After brief internment he went to Oxford where he studied medicine, completing his clinical training at University College Hospital, London.

Even as an undergraduate he showed exceptional powers of scientific criticism and originality which he progressively developed during his research career. He was no narrow specialist and his appointments after the usual resident clinical posts included morbid anatomy with Professor Sir Roy Cameron and Dr. Robb-Smith, a year with Karl Meyer at Columbia University, New York, about two years at the Dunn Nutrition Laboratory at Cambridge, and a long and fruitful association with me and Dr. E. J. Holborow at Taplow. It was during this latter period that he decided on his final career as an immunologist with a special interest in the rheumatic diseases and it is in this field that he made his most significant contributions. At the time of his death he was working at the Clinical Research Centre, Northwick Park: his most recent and possibly most important observations concerned the impairment of function of the neutrophil leucocytes in Crohn's disease and the clinical improvement associated with improved neutrophil behaviour resulting from treatment with Levamisole.

Gerald Loewi was a man of broad culture with a deep love of music and literature, especially that of his native land. His knowledge of German was profound, his ability as a translator being well exemplified by the recent English edition of Professor Fassbender's treatise on the pathology of the rheumatic diseases (reviewed *Ann. rheum. Dis.*, 1976, 35, 387).

He married in 1953 Angela Franklin, a member of a distinguished Jewish family.

He was a wonderful companion and loyal friend. I and all who knew him well deeply mourn his loss and especially our failure to appreciate the depths of depression and despair which he suffered and which he hid so successfully from the world at large.

He is survived by his wife, one son and one daughter.

L. E. GLYNN