

## Obituary

### Professor Florian Delbarre

We were all shocked to hear of the sudden death of Professor Delbarre on 16 September 1981. Born in 1918, Florian Delbarre had a brilliant early medical career (Interne des Hôpitaux de Paris with gold medal in 1943) and then came under the influence of Professor Florent Coste, who was quick to recognise the immense abilities of his young assistant. Delbarre in due course became professeur de clinique de rhumatologie médicale et sociale and doyen de la faculté de médecine, Paris-Cochin, also Président de l'Université René Descartes. In 1961 he became Secretary-General of the International League against Rheumatism. In 1978 he was elected to the National Academy of Medicine of France, a notable distinction among his many other honours.

There is hardly any aspect of clinical rheumatology upon which Delbarre's numerous publications, with his admirable team of investigators, have not made a significant impact. His early studies on rheumatic carditis with ACTH and cortisone, his extensive work on gout and purine enzymes, his demonstration of the role of chlamydial infection in Reiter's syndrome, his investigations of anti-inflammatory agents using experimental models of arthritis, and his research into crystal synovitis are examples of his widespread interests. They have provided a background against which he and his former pupils have

helped to raise French rheumatology to its present pre-eminent position.

No doubt Professor Delbarre fired his pétards explosively in the stormy seas of national and international medical politics, but those of us who make our passage in more tranquil waters can only remember him as we knew him—a stimulating, vivacious, and genuinely friendly colleague, whom it was always a real pleasure to meet in France, England, or in other parts of the world. His panache was wonderful—how, for example, at a meeting in Johannesburg some years ago, he demanded the services of an interpreter while he gave his lecture, but carefully stopped his talk on several occasions to correct every slight inaccuracy of translation! A few of us from this country, the USA, and Egypt last met him—and how little did we realise that this was in fact to be the very last time—at a special reunion dinner at the Jardin du Louvre during the Paris Congress in June 1981, where, with his charming wife, he unobtrusively, generously, and unexpectedly hosted us. So we take our leave of Florian Delbarre with fond personal memories; and the whole world of rheumatology mourns the passing from our ranks of an outstanding physician.

J. T. SCOTT

## Note

### Adenosine symposium

An international symposium on adenosine will be held at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, USA, on 7–11 June 1982. Details from: Department of Conferences and Institutes, Division of Continuing Education, University of Virginia, PO Box 3697, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903, USA.