OBITUARIES

The pressure on space in the last two issues of 1947 was so great that we were unable to publish an appreciation of Professor Sven Ingvar, who died early last year. We are indebted to Professor Nanna Svartz for the following appreciation.

Sven Ingvar, Professor of Internal Medicine in Lund, Sweden, died on April 21, 1947. He was born in 1889. Since 1929 he was head of the department of Internal Medicine at the University of Lund, to which was attached a rheumatism section with seventy beds. Ingvar’s scientific work was chiefly in neurology, especially the pathology of the cerebellum and the reflex of the pupil; but he was also very interested in rheumatology, and visited the Fourth International Congress of Rheumatology in 1934 and was President of the Fifth International Congress in Sweden in 1936. On this occasion, as well as at other conferences, he often talked about the future of rheumatology and emphasized its close relation to the whole of internal medicine. He laid stress upon the importance of research work for the progress of this specialty, and stimulated his pupils to investigations in this field.

Soon after having celebrated his sixtieth birthday with his friends and pupils, Professor K. von Neergaard died on November 7 last, quite unexpectedly torn from his unceasing activity.

After a sound training under the recently deceased Prof. R. Staehelin, of Basle, von Neergaard, in 1925, began his career as head physician of the University-Institute of Physical Medicine at Zürich. In 1935, he became a titular Professor, and in 1940 extraordinary Professor for Physical Medicine. The results of analytical research could, however, not satisfy one of his universal learning, which did not stop with studies on medicine and natural science; he felt he must search after a far-reaching synthesis. The result of this research is shown in his monograph on *Die Katarrhinfection als chronische Allgemeinerkrankung, eine dynamische Reaktions-pathologie des Rheumatismus und aetiologisch zugehöriger Erkrankungen, als Ausdruck einer spezifischen Virusinfektion*. He was one of the first rheumatologists to point out the importance of chronic infection and related allergic symptoms, and he was thus able to correlate the various forms of rheumatism into a unity. To him, the multiplicity of the rheumatic diseases was an expression of general illness. He therefore laid great stress on such general treatment as climato-therapy, balneotherapy, and physical-therapeutic unspecific influence, but without neglecting local therapy. After having dealt with the problem of local and general treatment, he wrote: ‘There is no question of ‘either—or’, the only way is, carefully to consider in each individual case the ‘this’, as well as the ‘other’. Here, the great problem of our time—which is not only the biggest and most urgent in biology and medicine—the question of the relation of the particle to the whole, and the whole to the particle, finds an answer for a large group of diseases, at least in their fundamental basis.”

Von Neergaard, moreover, was not content simply with scientific knowledge. He gave his whole life to the sick. For him it was not only the disease that was interesting, but the sick person himself. Without thorough social measures, such as sanitation of dwellings and factories, the establishment of public treatment at spas and resorts in the Swiss high mountains, without treatment of the pre-morbid state, without prophylactic measures of various kinds, the fight against the most frequent disease in Switzerland was impossible. This prompted him to work out a very detailed health programme for Switzerland, and also to further with all his energy the European League against Rheumatism. Unfortunately illness made it impossible for him to attend the first Congress of this League at Copenhagen. It remains for us to follow in the ways he showed us, by giving effect as far as possible to his really grand programme. In this way, too, we can fulfil his sincere wish for universal co-operation between the representatives of medical and other sciences, and, perhaps, ultimately contribute to the world’s peace. A. Böni.