

OBITUARY

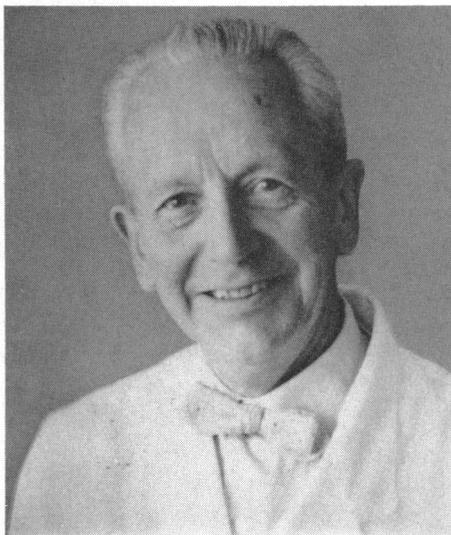
MARC AMSLER, 1891–1968

Far beyond the boundaries of Switzerland many ophthalmologists will be grieved at the death of Marc Amsler, for apart altogether from his excellence as a surgeon, his undoubted flair as a clinician, and his wide knowledge of our subject, he was one of the most modest, genial, and courteous of men. Everyone who met him bore a great affection for him, and to those who were privileged to know him well this became very deep.

Amsler was born in Vevey and after a sound groundwork in ophthalmology in Lausanne, Zürich, and Paris, he became the assistant of Jules Gonin at Lausanne and proved to be his right hand during the dramatic time when this great surgeon was revolutionizing our ideas on the pathogenesis of detachments of the retina and showing the way in which this hitherto hopeless condition could be cured. In this, no more able, devoted, or enthusiastic a colleague could be imagined. On Gonin's death in 1935, Amsler followed his Master as professor of ophthalmology at Lausanne until, in 1944, he succeeded Alfred Vogt at Zürich where he continued until his retirement from active work. Thereafter he took his large collection of autographs to a country house in Valais where in his vineyard he and his wife led a cultured and happy life with his music and his vines.

Apart from his sustained work on detachment of the retina, his contributions to ophthalmology have been immense. The two greatest were his extensive studies on the pathology of the aqueous humour, its cellular content, and the estimation of the permeability of the uveal capillaries by the technique of fluorescence, and the new and broad light he shed on the problems of keratoconus, especially its early and abortive manifestations. Few in England will forget the excellence of his Bowman Lecture in 1948 on the first of these subjects—"New Clinical Aspects of the Vegetative Eye"—with the remarkable film which accompanied it. He knew London well and was frequently a welcome visitor there, and he received the rare distinction of being an honorary member of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom. Nor was he a rare visitor to other countries where he was received with equally great delight. To visit him in Zürich was a similar joy for no happier clinic existed than in his old hospital or in the department he designed in the new hospital built in that city.

Amsler's death leaves a great blank in our community and in international ophthalmology, for he served for many years as the Treasurer of the International Council. His widow, Marguerite, and his family can be assured that their loss is widely shared by a host of others. S.D.-E.



JOHN MILTON McLEAN, 1909–1968

American and world ophthalmology has suffered a great loss on the death of John McLean after a long and trying illness. Born in New York City, he took a degree in mechanical engineering and thereafter studied medicine at Cornell University. After graduation in 1934 he studied

ophthalmology at the Wilmer Institute until 1941 when he returned to Cornell, where he rapidly became a professor and surgeon-in-charge of the ophthalmic division and at several other hospitals in New York.

John McLean was one of the most distinguished surgeons in the United States and at the same time a leader in clinical research, particularly in the therapeutic uses of the corticosteroids and the infections of the eye by fungi. He first became internationally known by devising a distinctive and effective approach to the closure of the wound in cataract surgery, and the content of over 100 papers contributed to ophthalmic journals indicates his wide interest in cataract and glaucoma surgery, and more lately in cryotherapy and the techniques of treating detachments of the retina. The two atlases on the surgery of cataract and of glaucoma are unusually good. A delightful personality, he was respected as much for his character as for his professional gifts, and at the time of his death was president of the Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology, Chairman of the Section of Ophthalmology of the American Medical Association, and a member of the International Council of Ophthalmology. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his widow, Mary Lou, his son, and three daughters.

KENNETH NEIL OGLE

The world of physiological optics has lost one of its most illustrious contributors in the death of Kenneth Ogle on February 21, 1968. A native of Colorado, he was educated at Colorado College and then, selecting physics as a career, he went to Dartmouth College where he remained in the Eye Institute from 1930 to 1947. On the closure of Dartmouth, he joined the Section of Biophysics at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Minnesota, ultimately becoming professor of physiological optics. His work on all aspects of binocular vision and spatial perception, aniseikonia, ocular movements, and pupillometry is well known throughout the world; it is summarized in his classical textbook, *Binocular Vision* (1950), in "The Optical Space Sense" in Davson's *The Eye* (1962), and in *Binocular Oculomotor Imbalance in Binocular Vision and Fixation Disparity* (1967). His original work won him the honorary M.D. degree from the University of Uppsala in 1962, an honorary D.Sc. from Colorado College in 1963, the Proctor Medal in the same year, and the Tillyer Medal in 1967.