

## Editorial Comment

During 1986 we have been saddened by the loss of three of the outstanding figures in Canadian neurology. A tribute to Dr. André Barbeau was published in the August, 1986 issue of the Journal. In this issue, we salute the memory of Dr. J.C. Richardson and Dr. Francis McNaughton with special tributes prepared by Dr. John Wherrett and Dr. Donald Baxter.

Although they were not the first neurologists in this country, Richardson and McNaughton are considered by many to be the founding fathers of Canadian neurology. In some ways, their respective careers in Toronto and Montreal ran remarkably parallel courses. Both men obtained training at the National Hospital, Queen Square, where they were strongly influenced by such well known figures as Gordon Holmes and Charles Symonds. They subsequently introduced to Canada the traditions of British neurology with emphasis on meticulous history taking and physical examination and careful correlation of clinical findings with anatomy and pathology.

Richardson and McNaughton were founding members of the Canadian Neurological Society when it was established in 1951, and each of them subsequently served as President of the Society. Both men were superb clinical teachers and their impact on Canadian neurology is evident today when one looks at the number of neurologists across the country who obtained part or all of their training under the direction of either Dr. Richardson or Dr. McNaughton. By nature they were both modest, quiet, perhaps even somewhat shy individuals. Yet, the same concern and compassion which were shown for their patients were also evident in the personal commitment they made to each of their residents.

Richardson and McNaughton presided over the development of Canadian neurology during a period of rapid change. Remarkable advances in basic neurosciences and in neurodiagnostic techniques stimulated the evolution of neurology from a largely clinical discipline to one which was increasingly based on laboratory studies. They recognized the importance of the scientific basis of neurology and encouraged many residents to pursue further studies beyond their basic clinical training. At the same time, they were careful to ensure that the importance of clinical skills and diagnostic acumen was not lost as neurology became more and more dependent on new diagnostic techniques and laboratory procedures.

Canadian neurology owes these two men a great debt and would not enjoy the reputation it does today were it not for their many important contributions. We are grateful to them for what they have taught us and their ideas will continue to influence clinical neurology as it faces new challenges over the coming decades.

*Robert G. Lee*