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Current Problems in Allergy and Immunology

Papers dedicated to
BÉLA SCHICK
on the occasion of his 80th birthday

edited by
WILLIAM KAUFMAN



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Preface

This volume is affectionately dedicated to Dr. Béla Schick as a Festschrift on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. Few physicians have worked so hard for so long and have accomplished so much for their fellow human beings as has Dr. Schick. Not only has he contributed over the years to the health and welfare of children directly under his care, but through his basic contributions to medicine there are today millions of people all over the world who owe their health and even their lives to him; and future generations will undoubtedly benefit also from the works of this great man.

I first met Dr. Schick almost eighteen years ago when I was a medical resident at the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, and looked after a few of his older pediatric patients on the Private Pavilion. My first impression was that he was a friendly but shy and retiring man who wore a natural mantle of modesty. Gentle, he was always the objective observer of the sick child and his illness, having the keen, inquisitive mind of the research medical scientist. But at the same time he was sensitive, perceptive and conscientious, and to him there was nothing routine about the care of his young patients. Each child always received individualized attention. Long before it became fashionable to talk about the psychosomatic approach of treating the whole patient, Dr. Schick, in addition to giving each pediatric patient the medical therapy he needed, also gave him tender loving care which comforted the sick, frightened child and set him at ease in the hospital environment. Sick children looked forward to his next visit as they would to that of a kind friend, an older playmate, a protector against pain and suffering. Only a person who genuinely loves children can win their trust, affection and respect as Dr. Schick always has.

In the best tradition of medicine, he has always been dedicated to his medical work, and to the service of humanity. Therefore, it does not come as a surprise to those who know him that today, at the age of 80, when most men have long been retired from their labors, Dr. Schick is happily continuing with the medical work he loves, now doing important research in the field of infant prematurity, and taking care of patients in consultation and private practice.

The basic contributions of Béla Schick over the years to medicine are too well known to need recounting here, and these include works on serum sickness, diphtheria, scarlet fever, and infant and child nutrition. Not only are these works of importance in themselves, but also they have acted as an enormous stimulus to medical thought, imagination and endeavor in many fields of clinical and basic medical research.

When my fellow editors asked me to plan and edit the Béla Schick Festschrift, I decided that this volume should contain articles by leading medical scientists and physicians on topics in allergy and immunology in which they were most interested, and especially qualified to write about. The enthusiastic response that I had to my letters of invitation is but one measure of the universal respect and admiration which the scientific world has for Béla Schick. The papers in this volume represent only a small sampling of the world of allergy and immunology as it exists today. As in all samplings, not every possible subject has been included, but many important aspects of allergy and immunology are covered.

In order to avoid the usual delays in publication of a book such as the Béla Schick Festschrift, our publisher, Dr. Heinz Karger, graciously suggested that the papers for the Festschrift first be issued in sequential numbers of the International Archives of Allergy and Applied Immunology, to be called the Béla Schick Festschrift, Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. This method of procedure allows for prompt publication of the many important scientific contributions that comprise this volume. Then, when all these papers have appeared in the Archives, they will be collected and issued in book form as the Béla Schick Festschrift.

Thanks are due to Dr. Karger, who took a deep personal interest in making the Béla Schick Festschrift possible, and to the editors of the Archives, especially Dr. Paul Kallós, who offered encouragement and excellent advice. I am indebted to Dr. Kallós for final editing of the papers written in German and French. I am also grateful for the splendid cooperation of the distinguished medical scientists and clinicians who contributed papers for this volume. Finally, I wish to thank my wife, Charlotte S. Kaufman, who cheerfully helped me with this undertaking, as she has with so many others.

W. K.

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