In memoriam

Hermann Fischgold (1899–1982)

Hermann Fischgold died on 16 January 1982 from the complications of a minor head injury. He was the founder, thinker and organizer of French neuroradiology. He had been the only one of his generation to devote his activity, at the University level as well as in the hospital, to this speciality of the radiological discipline. In his efforts he was always aided by the advice of his masters and friends, M. L. Delherm, M. A. Baudouin, P. Puech, D. Petit-Dutallis, and M. David, among others.

We all remember the meetings and seminars as well as the national, European and international congresses he organized or animated with a facility based on the union of intelligence, kindness and authority in the field. Years past normal retirement, he commanded respect and attention when drawing conclusions from the most disparate publications, thus giving the meeting a high degree of coherence. Although already retired at the time when CT came into being, he felt particularly concerned and tried to help us to integrate this new technique.

Hermann Fischgold received his premedical training in Bucharest where he was awarded his medical degree in 1925. On behalf of cultural exchanges between France and Romania, he came to Paris where he worked as the assistant of Professor M. L. Delherm in the department of electrolologic neurophysiology at the La Pitié Hospital. In 1933 he received his M. D. degree from the University of Paris. At that time he also started his career as medical editor: he was the managing editor of Professor Delherm's *Nouveau traité d'électroradiothérapie*. During the Second World War he lived in hiding with his wife under cover in Toulouse.

In 1946 he became "assistant des Hôpitaux de Paris," in 1947 "électroradiologiste des Hôpitaux" and finally, chief of the department of EEG and neuroradiology at La Pitié Hospital in 1956. In 1962 Fisch-

gold became chairman of radiology; he retired in 1970.

During his activity in electroradiology, radiology and nuclear medicine, Fischgold set much value upon the pertinence of diagnostic imaging and thus contributed to the conceptualization of modern imaging. He had numerous pupils from throughout the entire world and trained the French neuroradiologists from Paris and the other French medical schools from the

Mediterranean to the Rhine. The message of this master, who ranks among the most prominent radiologists of the world, was plain and powerful: pacifism, universalism, humanism and technology. He wanted this message to be transmitted without dramatization or overestimation. Well aware of our problems and tensions, he believed that they would stimulate further development and achievement.

His enthusiasm led him to organize courses, seminars and congresses, to write books and monographs, and to serve as an editor of *Traité de radiodiagnostic*, which is the materialization of his knowledge in general radiology. He was also elected president of the International Symposium of Neuroradiology in Paris in 1967. His main scientific contributions to neuroradiology concern the base of the skull and the cervico-occipital region and their relationships with the cranial nerves, radioanatomy, direct magnification, subtraction, radio-ophthalmology and otology, forensic radiology, and microradiography.

Almost all the younger radiologists of the French universities took the advice of Fischgold at least once during their professional lives, as he had a solid repu-

tation for being a wise counselor and sharp evaluator of human affairs. These personal contacts were facilitated by the warm hospitality of Madame Frida Fischgold whose dedication to radiology is legendary.

We do not know of a better conclusion for his list of publications in radiology than a translation of the introduction he wrote in 1962: "It was tempting for a radiologist, interested in the nervous system since the beginning of his medical studies, to practice neuroradiology and electroencephalography at the same time and in a number of cases to compare the electric activity with the morphology of the brain; however, neuroradiology can only be secondarily isolated from general radiology. In order to understand better the morphological conditions in a case of epilepsy or brain tumor, one must acquire the habit of analyzing an X-ray film in addition to understanding the physical X-ray image. This habit is obtained by studying normal radioanatomy."

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