

Obituary

Raúl Carrea, 1917—1978



With Raúl Carrea there disappeared one of the prominent figures of Argentine medicine in this century, whose scientific activity exceeded the limits of his country.

Dr. Carrea was born in Buenos Aires on 26 January 1917, and he was granted his M.D. degree by the University of Buenos Aires in 1942. He then went to Spain to work for three years with Professor Pío del Río Hortega.

After that he travelled to the U.S.A. with a scholarship from the Commonwealth Fund of New York to study neurosurgery at the Columbia University of New York as Research Assistant in Neurology and Assistant Resident in Neurological Surgery between 1946 and 1947. There he carried out, with Professor F. A. Mettler, important research into cerebellar physiology.

After his return to Buenos Aires he worked with Dr. Bernardo Houssay and Dr. E. Braun Menéndez. For two years after 1956 he directed the National Institute of Mental Health.

In 1959 he became Professor of Neurosurgery of the Medicine School of Buenos Aires, and in 1960 he founded the Neurosurgical Service at the Buenos Aires Children's Hospital. He became chairman of the Service in 1977.

Between 1960 and 1962 he was engaged in important research in experimental neurophysiology in the Institute of Medical Investigation, directed by Dr. A. Lanari.

In 1962 he became Director of the Neurological Research Centre of the Di Tella Institute, which operated within the Children's Hospital, endowing this institution with one of the most important laboratories for Neurophysiology in South America.

In 1976, after a trip to England, where he visited the most important institutes, he was nominated Director of the Computer Tomography Centre, thus becoming in South America the precursor of this advanced radiological technique.

Not less important was his activity as Editor of different publications, in which he exercised his strength with the same enthusiasm as he had for all his projects. He was Permanent Editor of Congress Publications of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies, and Editor of *Medicina*, of the *Bulletin of the Argentine Association of Neurosurgery*, of *Acta Neurológica Latinoamericana*, and of *Child's Brain*.

Dr. Carrea was member of important societies in Argentina and abroad, and was lately nominated President of the International Society for Paediatric Neurosurgery.

He published more than a hundred papers on different scientific subjects, and several books on neurosurgery.

It is impossible here to enumerate the vast activity of Dr. Carrea. Endowed with outstanding virtues, he was an authentic pioneer in all the tasks he undertook, such as scientific research, medical education, and neurosurgery.

But besides all his scientific qualities, Raúl Carrea also had an astonishingly open-minded personality, receptive of different disciplines and always ready to take in and incorporate every new idea, and to elaborate projects for the benefit of the sciences and for his own joyfulness.

R. Leiguarda (Buenos Aires)