

Obituary

Tribute to Klaus Joachim Zülch
(1910-1988)

Professor Zülch has died at age 78. He was born in Allerstein, Eastern Prussia, on April 11, 1910. After studying medicine in the most renowned universities of the time, both in Germany and abroad, he graduated in Breslau with a thesis supervised by Otfried Foerster. At the beginning of his academic career he was a pupil of some famous scholars of the German neurological school, such as Tönnis, Spatz, and Weizecker. It is hard to summarize the several positions held by Professor Zülch after he resumed civil life following the dramatic events of world war II, in which he served as a medical officer and was severely wounded. He became guest-professor of neurology by Prof. Pette in Hamburg; then, after spending a couple of years as guest professor in Brazil he finally settled in Cologne. The period spent in this town was undoubtedly the most important and fruitful in Professor Zülch's academic life. He was in charge of both Max Planck Institute for brain research and the neurological department of the



newly built hospital in Cologne-Merheim. It is impossible to list all his appointments, honours and academic degrees: I will only remind that, as the president of the German neurological Society in the early sixties, he organized the World Congress of Neurology in Cologne. He was member of many scientific societies and of the editorial board of the most important neurological journals.

The scientific interests of Professor Zülch have been manifold which is obvious in view of the long period encompassed by his activity and the parallel changes in the world of neurological sciences. He began in the late thirties as a neurosurgeon and a neuropathologist with Prof. Tönnis, and since then his attention was particularly focused on morphological aspects of neurology. The wartime years prompted him to get involved in neurotraumatology and rehabilitation and later on he contributed to the development of clinical neuroradiology. However in the years of scientific maturity his attention was

mainly focused on two subjects, namely pathology of brain tumours and cerebral ischemia. With respect to the first item, every neurologist has been acquainted with his classification of brain tumors, which in some way summarized his monumental research activity on the topic. As to cerebral ischemia, his investigations on "last meadows" and "watershed" infarctions can be regarded as classics of neurology and have become current concepts in cerebrovascular pathology.

In this hour of sorrow I remember when, just a couple of years ago, I had the honour to greet him officially when he was the chairman of a symposium in Genova, which unfortunately was to become the last occasion to meet as representatives of our neurological "twin" schools. Since the similarity of interests have always kept us in close contact in the past twenty years, I could deeply appreciate the human qualities of Professor Zülch, so that I cannot avoid a note of deep personal sorrow for the passing away of one of the most prominent figures of contemporary neurology.

Cornelio Fazio and his pupils