

In Memoriam: Professor Carl de Gruchy

February 24, 1922–October 13, 1974

ONE OF THE GREAT ADVANTAGES for an Australian hematologist traveling overseas was that, wherever one went, there would always be a welcome with open arms because of the friendship people felt towards Carl de Gruchy. It would be impossible to envisage a better ambassador for his country. The contributions which he made to Australian hematology and the selfless energy with which he pursued the development of the specialty are difficult to describe with justice. He was the initiating force in the foundation of the Australian Society of Haematology. With typical modesty he shunned the first presidency to take on the more onerous task of being the first secretary. Equally typical of Carl was his selection of Sydney as the site for the venue of the XIth Congress of the International Society of Hematology in 1966, rather than his home town of Melbourne. All of us associated with that meeting can attest to the time-consuming intercity travel which he undertook during the year which preceded the Congress. By tact and gentle persuasion, Carl always accomplished what he set out to do, assuring the success of the meeting.

One has met a number of people about whom it could be said that no one had a bad word to say—this was certainly true of Carl de Gruchy. It is perhaps more interesting and important to record that Carl never had a bad word to say about anyone else. His clarity of mind and ability to express himself are still well shown in his precise *Textbook of Haematology*, which is a superb stepping stone for the practicing general physician and the trainee hematologist to the encyclopedic textbooks of other authors.

His investigative work was largely directed towards the hemolytic anemias following his initial research with John V. Dacie at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith. He was greatly influenced by this association which grew with the years and he regarded London as a second home. The work by him and the enzyme laboratory he established pointed the way to the ultimate discovery of pyruvate kinase deficiency by Valentine and his associates. Realizing that administration was making rapid inroads into his own time, he gathered in his department an enthusiastic younger generation of investigators who yet contribute to investigative medicine and hematology within and outside of Australia.

His influence in Australian hematology extended far beyond the people who had trained in his own laboratory. At every meeting one would see Carl talking with interest to young hematologists from other States, discussing their problems sympathetically and always giving them sound and unbiased advice. The success he had in promoting hematology can best be summarized by the fact that, of the professors of clinical medicine in Australia, over a quarter are hematologists.

Carl was a gentle and cultured person whose love for the arts was readily attested by his own collection of paintings and his unobtrusive presence at gallery exhibitions.

We know that our own sense of loss concerning Carl will be felt throughout the world. In particular his sound and wise counseling at the International Society of Hematology will be greatly missed. Australia is a young country in academic clinical medicine, it has as yet few established giants in this field. Carl de Gruchy most certainly was one of them.

A. BAIKIE, M.D.

B. G. FIRKIN, M.D.

D. G. PENINGTON, M.D.