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## NEWS AND VIEWS

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### Obituary: Dr. Camille Dreyfus



Dr. Camille Dreyfus of Paris, France, died on July 10, 1966, at the age of 69. He was a short, gentle man with a subtle, warm personality and a broad area of interests. These included not only hematology, but also the history of medicine, Judaism and its ancient history, the fine arts, and good food. At one time, he was Chagall's physician and his walls proudly showed a number of Chagall's paintings. Actually, Camille—after his first heart attack about 1960 — took up painting himself and did some very creditable work. In short, he was the epitome of the Continental gentleman. He wore his decoration as Commander of the Legion of Honor with great dignity.

He was a true Alsatian, having been born in Altkirch (October 20, 1897), and he received his M.D. degree from the Strasbourg University in 1925. By 1940 he was Physician-in-Chief of the St. Damien Clinic of Mulhouse, where he created a blood transfusion service. When the Nazis invaded France, he came with his wife, Renée, to Boston and was introduced to the writer by Dr. Siegfried Thannhauser, one of his old friends. He was a Research Fellow in Hematology at the New England Medical Center for two years and was always a joy to have around: for his quiet knowledge, his gentle wit, his orthodoxy of religious thought, and his lack of orthodoxy when it came to other pursuits. He added a good deal to our laboratory and began there some of his first historical studies. He became very much interested in the spherocyte and in the hemolytic anemias. From Boston, he went to New York, where it is rumored he did undercover work for the Free French movement and simultaneously was a research clinical assistant in Hematology at the Mount Sinai Hospital from 1945 to 1949.

In 1950, he returned to France, this time to Paris, where many of his colleagues in the Free French underground were by now great figures politically. In Paris he enjoyed a large practice in clinical hematology and internal medicine, not only among the French but also with many visiting Americans. His best work was probably *Some Milestones in the History of Hematology* (Grune and Stratton, 1957). In 1962 and 1963 he wrote excellent historical

surveys of Alfred Donné and Gabriel Andral, two outstanding French investigators in hematology. I well remember his delight in my Donné atlas (1842), undoubtedly the first hematologic atlas and illustrated with some of the first daguerrotypes ever made. One seems to feel Camille's quiet presence with us now. Surely, we need more gentle men like Camille Dreyfus in this mechanized and often predatory world.

*William Dameshek*

### **Stengle Appointed Chief of National Blood Resource Program**

Dr. William H. Stewart, Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, today announced the appointment of Dr. James M. Stengle as Chief of the National Blood Resource Program. The National Heart Institute, one of the Service's National Institutes of Health, will bear primary responsibility for coordinating the efforts of NIH, the American Red Cross, and other agencies concerned with proper usage of the National Blood Resources.

The major immediate goals of the program will be to devise more efficient, highly automated methods for the mass production of medically important cellular and protein fractions of blood. These include red cells for the treatment of various anemias, platelets for the treatment of leukemia, blood clotting factors for the treatment of various hemorrhagic diseases (such as hemophilia), and gamma globulins for protection against infectious diseases. Another major goal is the development of improved preservation and storage technics for blood components in order to minimize losses resulting from deterioration during storage.

Plans are being formulated to survey, in depth, the nation's blood needs, not only for this year, but for years to come. A survey will also be made of the current utilization of blood resources, and a feasibility study will be carried out to see if computerized daily shelf inventories can solve problems posed by wide fluctuations in the available supply of blood and blood products and the clinical demand for them. Such a system might assure a more equitable distribution of blood and components, minimize losses due to outdating, and forestall critical shortages in one or more hospitals of a region by drawing on surpluses existing elsewhere. A study will also be made to assess the feasibility of a computerized system of names and locations of rare blood type donors throughout the nation.

Dr. Stengle has been with the National Institutes of Health since 1953. He served in the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the Division of Biologics Standards, National Cancer Institute, and the NIH Division of Research Grants as Executive Secretary of the Hematology Study Section before joining the National Heart Institute staff in 1961. He was Chief of the NHI Training Grants and Fellowships Branch until 1963, when he was appointed Special Assistant to the Associate Director for Extramural Programs, NHI. In July 1966, Dr. Stengle received the Public Health Service Meritorious Service Medal in recognition of his achievements in national and international hematology programs.