

## MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

### PAUL JOHN HANZLIK (b. 1885)

Paul John Hanzlik, the oldest son of a pioneer farmer, was born in 1885 near Shueyville, Iowa. He was of Czech and German extraction, the oldest of five children. Although the family was in modest circumstances, all of the children received college educations. Paul financed his own way by various jobs, some in the fields and some in town. At one time he mixed soft drinks in a drug store. When he was twelve years old, the family moved to the outskirts of Cedar Rapids, and Paul lived in the city with his grandparents through much of the time he was in high school and Coe Academy. He then moved on to the University of Iowa where he graduated in pharmacy at the age of seventeen. Because he was too young to be allowed a license as a pharmacist, he returned to school and was later granted the Ph.C. degree. During this time he lived with an uncle who was a medical student and ten years his senior. This association influenced the boy to medical aspirations.

While at Iowa he first met Bertha Shimek, the daughter of the professor of botany. In 1909 they were married and there followed forty-two years of close and fond association.

Before getting his A.B. degree at Iowa, Paul Hanzlik moved on to the University of Illinois where he could get an assistantship in Hawk's chemistry laboratory. At Urbana he received his A.B. degree in 1908 and later an M.A.

In 1909 he moved again to Western Reserve in Cleveland where he became an assistant to Dr. Torald Sollmann, one of the three greats in early American pharmacology. Throughout his medical course he worked in the pharmacology department and in 1912 received his M.D. After an internship at the Lakeside Hospital, he joined the department of pharmacology as a demonstrator, and gradually worked up the academic ladder to an associate professorship.

In 1914 the university paid the young couple's way for a year's study in Europe. Valuable experiences were gained, particularly in Vienna under the instruction of Hans Horst Meyer, noted pharmacologist, and Wolfgang Pauli, physical and colloid chemist. They were in Paris in the summer of 1914 when war broke out, and soon thereafter returned to Cleveland. For two years following his return he was again at Reserve, and then in 1918 he was called into the Army where, as a captain and later major in the medical corps, he was closely associated with Lewis in the development of Lewisite gas. As one of a team of three, he was about to go to France for its initial trial when the war ended.

After another short term at Reserve, during which he worked extensively with salicylates, he was called to Stanford in 1921, at the age of 36, to the chair in pharmacology. The family, which now included Harold, aged six, and Dorothy, aged two, moved west, and for the rest of his life Dr. Hanzlik's all-pervading interest was in Stanford and his department.

He worked in many fields but particularly in the development of bismuth compounds and was the first to make a useful compound of this nature which could be administered orally. Other absorbing subjects were the study of methenamine, cinchophen, glycols, carbitols, colloidal dyes, cyanide antidotes, anticonvulsants, and the bioassay of digitalis.

Parallel with his scientific achievements was his development of men, and pharmacologists first trained in his department are now distributed widely in university, government, and industrial work.

He was a member of many scientific societies including the American Physiological Society, American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, and the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, the West Coast section of which was for a considerable time under his chairmanship. He was also vice chairman of the Council on Dental Therapeutics of the American Dental Association for many years. He was the author of several books including a classic on salicylates, and co-author with Dr. Sollmann of another classic on experimental pharmacology. His Handbook of Accepted Remedies, Symptoms, and Treatment of Poisoning, written partly for the San Francisco Department of Health, was the first of many similar manuals, most of which borrowed heavily from his original. He was an associate editor of the Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, and also of Archives Internationales de Pharmacodynamie et de Therapie.

Through all his daytime thoughts, and much nighttime also, his mind turned on pharmacological problems and his "boys" in the laboratory were presented in the morning with little chits, written on whatever scrap of paper was handy, suggesting ideas to them. He was a great collector of memoranda, letters, scientific reprints, and notes.

An outstanding pharmacologist of the classical school, Paul Hanzlik steadfastly maintained the soundest academic traditions. He carefully shunned that promotional distemper which has here and there crept into universities. He believed that sound work presented in dignified fashion was all-important rather than superficial outward flourishes. As a teacher he was precise and authoritative. It was said of him that his classroom experiments actually "worked" - a rare achievement. No one could be bored in conversation with Paul Hanzlik. His incisive mind went right to the core of a problem. He was devoid of insincerity and a friend was never disappointed if he went to him for advice. His life and work will endure for a long time in American medicine.

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