

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

LOWELL ADDISON RANTZ (1912 – 1964)

Lowell Addison Rantz was born June 1, 1912, in Placerville. He received a bachelor of arts degree from Stanford University in 1932 and was awarded his doctorate in medicine in 1936. After serving as resident physician at the San Francisco Stanford Hospital, he was offered a fellowship at Harvard. There he worked at the Thorndike Memorial Laboratory with Chester Keefer on the treatment of infection with sulfanilamide, the first of a series of effective anti-bacterial chemotherapeutic agents. Called to Stanford in 1939 by Arthur Bloomfield as Instructor in Medicine, Rantz continued to study the new antibiotics which revolutionized treatment of infections over the next decade.

In 1942, faced with outbreaks of respiratory infection in troops training for the war, the Army called on Rantz as a Consultant and Member of the Commission on Hemolytic Streptococcal Diseases. The epidemiologic, clinical, and immunologic findings which resulted from this experience were recorded in a classical series of publications by Rantz, Spink and Boisvert, in which the relation between streptococcal infection and its complications, including rheumatic fever, was clearly demonstrated. Between 1948 and 1962, as a member of the Councils of the American Heart Association, Rantz helped to disseminate and apply the new knowledge in a national program to prevent rheumatic fever and ensuing heart disease. The control of antibiotic-resistant organisms and the relation of infection to nephritis were the subjects of recent studies, which will now be carried on by his colleagues, Kenneth Vosti and Harold Simon.

This productive career of research, recorded in more than one hundred and seventy articles in journals and textbooks, received national recognition. The list of honors and tributes to his scholarship and leadership is far too long to include here. He gave valued guidance to many endeavors dedicated to improving the health of the community and of the State.

Stanford University and the Medical School were the focal points of Lowell Rantz's career. He was a popular and stimulating teacher, and was surrounded by a group of students, residents, fellows, and associates to whom he communicated his enthusiasm in the search for knowledge and in its application to the care of his patients. The Infectious Disease Laboratory staff grew with increasing demands and became a Division of the Department of Medicine. Lowell- Rantz was appointed Professor of Medicine in 1955. In 1959, Dean Alway appointed him as Associate Dean for Clinical and Post-Graduate Affairs. The administrative affairs of the Medical School and Hospital are complicated, and Lowell Rantz worked hard and long in an attempt to unravel the many problems. He served as the chairman of the Clinical Committee. Since the school moved to the campus he has been chairman of the delegation dealing with events concerning both medical staffs. As the untiring chairman of the Joint Professional Medical Council he was instrumental in forming the Medical Board. His intelligence, diplomacy, forthrightness, and vision served as a guide for the other members of the Board. In addition, he served and worked in the attempt to create an intelligent fusion between the Veterans Hospital and the Medical School. It has recently become apparent that his unceasing

efforts have reached fruition in accomplishing his hope that the Veterans Hospital will become a national medical center. In clinical and administrative affairs, he will be sorely missed and, indeed, irreplaceable.

In the midst of these responsibilities, Lowell Rantz remained at heart a physician, sincerely interested in his patients, and radiating competence and confidence at the bedside. His keen insight and broad experience made him a much sought-after consultant. Among his many strong qualities was the gift of clear, logical, unhurried expression of ideas, sometimes colored with gentle irony, but always appreciated by his listeners, whether in an intimate circle or in larger meetings.

Since their marriage in 1939, Helen Heilbronner Rantz worked side by side with Lowell in the laboratory, as the perennial Secretary-Treasurer of the Medical Alumni, and most recently to arrange housing for the growing body of students, house staff, and fellows at the Medical School. Many visitors will recall the pleasant and informal receptions in their home, and the interesting hobbies which they enjoyed. To Helen and to their daughter, Elizabeth Russell, the Faculty express their appreciation of Lowell Rantz' contributions and deepest sympathy in their loss.

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