

## IN MEMORIAM

RUSSELL LOWELL HOLMAN, M.D.

1907-1960

Russell Lowell Holman died at his home in New Orleans on May 5, 1960, of carcinoma of the lung with cerebral metastases. The loss of this distinguished member of our society will be deeply felt by pathologists and other medical scientists, not only in this country but throughout the world. Dr. Holman's dynamic personality, warm friendly manner, and keen interest in people, as well as in ideas, won many loyal friends in the medical world.

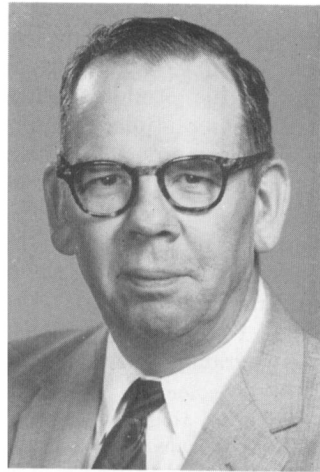
He earned the love and respect of his staff, other members of the faculty, and the student body of Louisiana State University School of Medicine. Contacts through scientific organizations led to a host of colleagues throughout the United States and Canada. When young pathologists gathered at national meetings, it was not unusual for someone to remark to one of Dr. Holman's staff members, "Rusty Holman must be a good guy to work for." The response was always in the affirmative. His research interests, particularly those relating to the natural history and geographic pathology of atherosclerosis, exposed many to the "Holman" brand of good will and led to friends for our country and our profession in Europe and in Central and South America.

To retrace the highlights of Dr. Holman's all-too-brief career, he received his undergraduate education at Washington University in St. Louis, studied medicine at Vanderbilt University, and received his first postgraduate training in pathology at Rochester University. The first spark of interest in pathology was kindled by Dr. Ernest W. Goodpasture, his professor of pathology at Vanderbilt. Dr. George Whipple at Rochester was his next mentor. From Rochester he went to Columbia, where Dr. James Jobling was his chief, and where he was also under the influence of Drs. Alwin Pappenheimer and William Von Glahn.

He joined the staff of the University of

North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1937 and became Professor and Head of the Department of Pathology.

In 1946 he came to New Orleans to head the Department of Pathology of Louisiana State University School of Medicine and became a leading figure in the school. Dr. Holman's contributions to the local scene in New Orleans were many. He played a leading role in the postwar development of L.S.U. School of Medicine and in the expansion of its physical facilities in the fifties. Also, on the local scene, Dr. Holman and



his wife, the former Sara del Valle, were tireless workers in the New Orleans Association for Retarded Children, and were to a large extent responsible for the formation and initial guidance of this organization.

On the national scene, Dr. Holman's many contributions included work in the Pathology Study Section of the National Institutes of Health, National Research Council, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, and membership in many national organizations. He was a leading member of the American Society for the Study of Arteriosclerosis and served as President of this society. He also served as President of the

American Society of Experimental Pathology. At the time of his death he was Secretary of the American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists, and was Chairman-Elect of the Section on Pathology and Physiology of the American Medical Association. He was a distinguished member of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, the International Academy of Pathology, and the College of American Pathologists.

As a teacher, Dr. Holman had a dynamic approach toward pathology. The students and residents alike could not satisfy him with slick diagnostic terms. Etiology and pathogenesis were always in the forefront of any lecture, conference, or demonstration. One quality which, in the eyes of the students, was above all others, was his sense of fairness; he tolerated nothing that smacked of unfairness. His vivid imagination added considerable spice to his lectures, and some of his phrases, similes, and metaphors have remained with his students through the years. As a former student of his, I can clearly remember many of his provocative statements and questions. "How big is your blood, Miss \_\_\_\_\_?" was his way of emphasizing the magnitude of the hematopoietic system. In describing the prognosis of hydatidiform mole he said, "If my wife had a mole, I wouldn't buy a casket." "Digging our graves with our knives and

forks" was the way he expressed the hazards of overeating.

Dr. Holman's research interests included regeneration of plasma proteins, the lymphatic system, experimental arterial lesions, and the field in which he was best known, atherosclerosis. He approached atherosclerosis as an experimentalist as well as a natural historian and epidemiologist. He was "at home" with biochemists, biophysicists, and biostatisticians. To him the "bio" was the important thing.

Dr. Holman became more and more interested in the study of chronic degenerative disease and emphasized the difficulties of studying these problems. He was constantly looking for new and sensible methods to attack this important front, and recognized the importance of chemistry and biophysics as applied to pathology and medical research.

This dynamic man with great curiosity, imagination, and personal magnetism will be long remembered by his students, staff, and a host of pathologists and other scientists the world over. He added new luster to the discipline of Pathology and new stature to the title of Professor.

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