Obituary

HENRY A. MAGNUS

Professor Magnus died suddenly while sitting at his desk on 12 September 1967, aged 57. His premature death is a great loss both to British pathology and gastroenterology and the members of our Society will share the grief which will be felt so widely both in this country and overseas.

'Dick' Magnus became a member of the British Society of Gastroenterology in 1946, and served as Secretary from 1960 to 1965, and he has been a member of the Editorial Board of *Gut* since its inception. The British Society of Gastroenterology has greatly benefited from his work. His flare for organization and administration had been greatly appreciated both in the Army and after the Second World War when he built up the Pathology Department at King's College Hospital to its present size and reputation. Those who served on the Council with him will remember both the bantering good humour and the precision and firmness with which he undertook this task. These qualities were very much needed at a time of considerable expansion and reorganization of the Society.

He was an invaluable assessor for *Gut*, and many authors must be grateful to him for the kindly, constructive comments which often enabled the

presentation of the scientific data to be considerably improved. His very extensive background knowledge of gastroenterology and pathology made him a pillar of strength on the Editorial Committee.

His early research studies dealt with gastric pathology, and the 'Swiss roll' technique enabled him to study gastric specimens in much greater detail than had previously been possible, and his initial studies earned him the gold medal for his M.D. thesis. He contributed considerably to our knowledge of precancerous lesions in the stomach, to gastritis, and to the pathology of the stomach in pernicious anaemia. His papers were always beautifully prepared and some may recall the chapter on gastritis which he contributed to *Modern trends in gastroenterology (1st series)*. The clarity of presentation and the quite exceptional quality of the photomicrographs made it an outstanding contribution. The same high standard marked his entire professional career. His easy, cheerful, friendly manner enabled him to overcome so many administrative problems and to build up a very happy department. The Society sends its sympathy to his wife Kay, and to his two sons.

F. AVERY JONES