

EDITORS' PREFACE

With this issue we attempt to express in some small measure our affection, our respect, and our sense of loss at the passing of Dr. Giuseppe Moruzzi, one of the commanding figures of twentieth century neurophysiology. Moruzzi's life was, in many ways, unique and his contributions as multifaceted as his own personality. His original scientific training was in the classic tradition of Italian anatomy and physiology, much of it gained from Professor Antonio Pensa of Pavia, one of the last pupils of Camillo Golgi. As a young post-doctoral student Moruzzi worked with Frederic Bremer, and later with Edgar Adrian, thereby developing the physiological skills and the capacity for critical conceptual thinking which became the hallmark of his scientific career. After the war, he spent a seminal year in Chicago, a time which provided the final focussing to his research interests, and in fact that of the entire "Moruzzi school of Physiology". His descriptions with Magoun of the ascending influences of the nonspecific systems of the brain stem upon telencephalic centers triggered an explosion of physiological investigation on mechanisms of consciousness and sleep. Simultaneously, with Brookhart and Snider, he helped develop reliable microphysiological techniques for monitoring single unit activity which were used thereafter by many investigators, including his own group, in studies of cortex, brain stem, cerebellum, and spinal cord.

During the following decades, the Institute of Physiology of the University of Pisa which he revived and reequipped, became an active training center for young investigators from Europe and overseas. Under Moruzzi's direction, significant studies of brain stem and thalamus, spinal cord, cerebellum and cerebral cortex poured out of the laboratories for a number of years. In addition to being published in the major physiological journals, they were collected periodically, bound and circulated as a series of institute volumes which brought a remarkable group of institute-generated research into one volume series. The Archives Italiennes de Biologie, a journal with a long and distinguished history, was reshaped by Moruzzi to become one of the prestigious international vehicles for publication of neurophysiological data.

In some ways, Moruzzi's most heroic and selfless act was his deliberate distancing himself from the day-to-day challenge of the laboratory, to foster the development of research in Italy. His constant labor to extract financial support from his own government and from sources overseas to strengthen the Italian National Research Council (C.N.R.), and to attract and support promising young investigators to the field of neurophysiological research constitute one of his proudest and most unselfish achievements. Even toward the end of his life, when illness made everything he did difficult, his commitment to his science and to his country, and his interest in his students and younger colleagues remained unabated. Who among us can forget the symposium on "Brain Mechanisms of Perceptual Aware-

ness and Purposeful Behavior” given in his honor in 1980... the last time that many of us were to see him. Sitting in the first row, leaning forward, hand cupped over his ear to catch every word, through three days of presentations, he listened, questioned, and discussed. Giuseppe Moruzzi bridged the span between the classical neuroanatomical period of Golgi and Pensa, and the behaviorally oriented microphysiology of the 1970s and 80s. Those of us who were privileged to work under his guidance can never forget the inquiring spirit and the devotion to sound science which he instilled. His gentle presence and searching mind will be missed.

O. Pompeiano, Pisa and A. B. Scheibel, Los Angeles

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