Obituary

J. S. Charamis, MD

Greece and ophthalmology have lost one of their leading medical personalities in the death of Professor John S. Charamis at the age of 73. He was born and brought up in Athens, where his father was an eminent ophthalmologist, and received his higher education in Athens and Paris. He finally settled in Athens to follow his father's professional career and early in life became well known as a pioneer of modern Greek ophthalmology.

Professor Charamis was scrupulous in all he undertook. He was the founder and director of the ophthalmic department at the Greek Red Cross Hospital, Athens (1933-47). In 1931 he founded the Hellenic Ophthalmological Society and in 1947 was elected professor in ophthalmology at Athens University and director of Ophthalmiatrion Eye Hospital. In 1970 he was elected a member of the Athens Academy in recognition of his scientific achievements. He made a valuable contribution to the successful campaign against trachoma in Greece and he was awarded the gold medal of the League against Trachoma in 1961.

An outstanding teacher, Professor Charamis will always be remembered for his agile mind and the ability to express himself concisely and cogently. He was a hard worker throughout his life and organised his time to the demands of a busy private practice, the burden of administration in the medical faculty, the clinical work

in his hospital, and the increasing obligations of his international commitments.

His academic achievements at home and abroad were many. From 1952 he was a member of the International Council of Ophthalmology and its president from 1966 to 1970. In 1967 he was elected a member of the Academy of Athens, the highest academic distinction in Greece. He was a foreign member of the Académie de Médecine de Paris from 1973 and a member of the Academy of Rome from 1976. Among the many medals he was awarded were the Médaille d'or des lettres, arts et sciences de la ville de Paris, the Helmholtz medal, the Médaille de l'union Médical Balkanique, and the Médaille Favaro. He published 370 scientific papers and a successful book on eye surgery (1943).

Charamis conceived the idea of a national institute of ophthalmology to house the university clinics and realised his aim after 10 years of sustained work. He was interested in a wide range of subjects, mainly history and art. A stimulating companion during his leisure hours, he always made visitors welcome, and many colleagues from all parts of the world will retain the memory of the warm and generous hospitality received at the hands of John Charamis and his charming wife, Angela. He was a gentle and kind man with great personal charm and dignity. He is survived by his wife, a son, and daughter.

J. TSAMPARLAKIS

Notes

Intraocular implants

An international congress and film festival on intraocular implants, organised by the French Intraocular Implant Society, will be held at the Palais des Festivals in Cannes on 2-5 May 1979. The principal theme of the congress will be 'The physiological basis of intraocular implanta-

tion'. The official languages will be French and English with simultaneous translation. Further details from: Dr L. Amar, Palais Armentonville, 06400 Cannes, France. Phone: (93) 38 31 28.

Clinical electrophysiology

The International Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision will hold its 17th symposium in Schloss Reinhardsbrunn, Friedrichroda, German Democratic Republic, on 5-10 June 1979. Two topics have been selected: 'Visual electrodiagnosis in systemic diseases'

and 'Visual electrophysiology and localised retinal stimulation'. The official language is English. Further information from: Professor Dr E. Schmöger, Augen-klinik der Medizinischen Akademie, Nordhäuserstrasse 74, 50 Erfurt, GDR.

International congress of ophthalmology

The European Society of Ophthalmology will hold its sixth Congress on 21-25 April 1980 in the Brighton Centre under the patronage of the Duke of Gloucester. The main theme is the study of the cornea in health and disease. The president of the Organising Committee is Mr Desmond P. Greaves, of the Moorfields Eye Hospital, London. Secretary-General of the Scientific Programme

is Professor W. S. Foulds, of the Tennent Institute of Ophthalmology, University of Glasgow. Secretary-General for the organisational matters is Mr John E. Wright, of the Moorfields Eye Hospital, London. Further information from: Holland Organising Centre, 16 Lange Voorhout, 2514 EE The Hague, The Netherlands.