NOTABLE MEN IN ENT

Michel Portmann, Associate Professor

Institut G. Portmann, 114 avenue d'Ares, 33074 Bordeaux (France)

Born – 31 May 1924, Married – 23 October 1948 to Miss Claudine Barrau.

Mrs CI Portmann, MD has been in charge of the Clinical Audiology Laboratory at the ENT Department of Bordeaux University (1952-1995).

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SINCE 1955

Professor and Director of the ENT clinic, Bordeaux University, from 1968 to 1990, during which time he has carried out numerous administrative duties for the hospital and university, and research work in participation with

Professor Emeritus of the University of Bordeaux II 1991 – 1994.

Professor M. Portmann is a pioneer of modern otology. He has contributed to the substantial development of the speciality over the last 50 years, equally in the areas of research, diagnosis

Michel Portmann, Associate Professor

the various French ministries (of education, health, social affairs, national defence, INSERM etc.).

(especially audiological), rehabilitation and surgery.

He has been responsible for establishing new departments :

In 1952 he created the Regional Centre for Phono-audiology in Bordeaux. This was the first centre of its type in France, and for several years served as a role model for other towns in France, and indeed for other countries, with its ability to deal with all problems of communication (language, voice, speech, hearing).

At the same period, in conjunction with Dr CL Portmann, he founded the Centre for Hearing and Language for the treatment of children with sensori-neural hearing loss and language disorders.

He gave impetus to research into basic and applied science in otology by founding the Laboratory of Experimental Audiology, which later on, in 1978, became a unit of INSERM.

In 1954 he set up the Section of Microsurgery of the Ear, helped by the appearance of the operating microscope. He described his personal techniques in the surgery of deafness, notably interposition for otosclerosis published in 1957. In 1966 this was followed, after a visit to William House in Los Angeles, by the introduction into France of otoneurosurgery of the skull base, working as a team with the neurosurgeons.

TEACHING

Professor Portmann has played a significant role in the training not only of French specialists, but also of foreigners, who have spent periods of 6 months, or up to 3 to 5 years in his department. The visitors have come from various countries with different socio-political systems, which has provided a strong stimulus for the development and maintenance of the culture of medicine.

He has been invited to give courses and conferences, both in French and in foreign languages, by numerous universities, hospitals and medical associations, and especially by the local representatives of the Portmann Institute. In particular he has been invited to give formal commemorative lectures, such as the William

Wild lecture (Belfast), Hunterian lecture (London), Joshi Memorial lecture (Bombay), Sir William lecture (Bristol), William Brinkman lecture (Nimegen), Holmgren lecture (Uppsala), I. S. Subramanian Memorial oration (Madras), L. Ruedi Memorial lecture (Zurich) etc. Every year he has also given several intensive courses in numerous countries (in Europe as well as in North and South America, Asia, Africa and Australia).

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PAST STUDENTS

In order to maintain human and professional contact with the ENT Department in Bordeaux, and to facilitate interaction between foreign and French past students, an association was formed at their request – the G. Portmann Institute. This institute sponsors teaching sessions and intensive courses on several continents – North and South America, Asia, Africa and Australia.

M. Portmann has been the Secretary of this association since 1967, and Honorary President since 1986. The association comprises more than 700 members in 50 countries.

He has received many decorations both in France and abroad, as well as medical and university honours and titles ; among others are:

Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland (1975)

Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (1980)

Honorary Fellow of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, Washington (USA) (1981)

Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Umeo (Sweden) (1980)

Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Louvain, Brussels (Belgium) (1983)

Doctor Honoris Causa of the Faculty of Medicine, Kunming (China) (1985)

Doctor Honoris Causa of the Institute of Higher Medical Studies of PLA, Pekin (China) (1988)

Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, London (Great Britain) (1988), Golden Award of the International Federation of ORL Societies (1988)

Honorary Membership of the American Academy of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery (USA) (1990)

National Correspondent of the Academy of Medicine (France)

Member of Honor of the National Academy of Medicine (Mexico)

Executive Member of the International Federation of ORL Societies (IFOS)

Member of the International Committee of the Collegium Oto-Rhino-Laryngologicum Amicitiae Sacrum. (1965–1990)

Honorary Member of the American Otological Society

Honorary Member of the Royal Society of Medicine (London)

Korrespondierenden Mitglied die deutsche Gesellschaft für HNO (Germany)

SOME SCIENTIFIC REVIEW BOARDS

Director of the *Revue de Laryngologie, Otologie, Rhinologie* (founded by E. J. Moure in 1880), previously Associate Secretary from 1948, and Editor from 1968.

Member of the Editorial Board of *Acta Oto-Laryngologica* (Stockholm)

Member of the Editorial Board of *Annals of Otolaryngology, Rhinology and Laryngology* (St Louis, USA) 1962.

PUBLICATIONS

He has published numerous books in the French language, some of which have been translated into other languages, notably those on Audiometry, Otological Surgery, Otoneurology etc.

Mention should be made of the most recent work, published in 1995 by Churchill Livingstone, London, in conjunction with A. Richards and J. M. Sterkers, on Rhino-Otological Microsurgery of the Skull Base.

He has established a film and video library containing many contributions of his own and of his colleagues, and which are available to all members of the G. Portmann Institute.

He has more than 500 publications which cover the various anatomical parts of the speciality, but it is especially in the area of the ear that his experimental and clinical work is concentrated.

Finally, in addition to his hospital and university career, M. Portmann has many other interests and activities.

He is a member of several Guilds of Wine Experts and currently the 'Grand Connetable de Guyenne' (the Association of first growths of Bordeaux and its Region). He appreciates gastronomy and good wine at a high standard.

For many years he has ridden horses, and practised drawing and painting, as well as appreciating the pleasures for music, reading and nature.

Compiled by :

Santanu Banerjee

3D, Braunfeld Row, Alipore
Calcutta-700 027, India.