RICHARD E. OGBORN 1920-1967

Richard E. Ogborn, physician, educator and investigator, was born April 25, 1920 and died June 2, 1967. Dr. Ogborn graduated from the University of South Dakota with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1942, the University of South Dakota School of Medical Sciences in 1944 with Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees and the University of Louisville Medical School in 1946 with an M.D. He completed residency in Pediatrics at Walter Reed Army Hospital in 1951. Post-graduate study in nuclear chemistry and physics was undertaken at Reed College in 1953. Following this post graduate study, Dr. Ogborn held positions in the Radioisotope Clinic and Department of Biophysics at the Army Medical Service Graduate School at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and was a member of the Hemorrhagic Fever Commission in Korea.

After his return from Korea, he served as chief of the Radioisotope Clinic at Walter Reed Army Hospital. In 1955 Dr. Ogborn joined the staff of the United States veterans Administration Hospital, Omaha, Nebraska, as Chief of the Radioisotope Service. There he was instrumental in planning and installing the first nuclear reactor within a hospital in the United States for medical research purposes. The application of techniques of Neutron Activation Analysis in the study of the role of trace elements in human disease was one of his many personal endeavors. Dr. Ogborn held a number of academic appointments at adjacent universities. He was an Associate Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Nuclear Medicine at the University of Nebraska College of Medicine as well as a member of the Graduate Faculty and was assistant professor of pediatrics at The Creighton University School of Medicine.

In 1965 Dr. Ogborn was appointed Chief of Staff of the Omaha Veterans Administration Hospital where he served until his appointment as director of the newly created Nuclear Medicine Service in Veterans Administration Central Office, Washington, D.C., in October of 1966.

Dr. Ogborn was a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, a diplomat of the American Board of Pediatrics, a trustee of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and served as President of the Plains States Chapter of the Society of Nuclear Medicine. He was a member of the governor's (Nebraska) Radiation Advisory Council and was the surgeon of the State Headquarters of the Nebraska National Guard holding the rank of Colonel, MC, Army National Guard. In 1963 he received the Stitt Award from the Association of Military Surgeons "for major contributions in the field of research" and the United States Veterans Administration Exceptional Service Award for "outstanding contributions to research and to medical education through the application of nuclear and radioisotope techniques to biological and medical problems."

Dick was one of the pioneers in the field of nuclear medicine. His desire to alleviate human suffering through the application of nuclear energy in diagnosis and treatment was an example to his many colleagues, friends and students in the professional as well as the lay community.

The untimely loss of his dynamic drive in the field of nuclear medicine will certainly be missed, but the memory of his many contributions through the application of nuclear energy in medicine will serve as living example for all to carry on.