

## Obituary

### *Wolfgang Schiefer 1919–1980*

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Schiefer, Director of the Neurochirurgische Universitäts-Klinik Erlangen, co-editor of this Journal, died very suddenly on the 11th of November, 1980, in his 62nd year, from a coronary infarction.

He was a member of the “founder-generation” of neurosurgery in Germany. Born in 1919 in Rheinland, he had to do his military service in the front lines during the war, before he could finish his medical studies. He belonged to the group of medical doctors who joined Wilhelm Tönnis when he started to build up neurosurgery again after the war in a miners hospital in Bochum-Langendreer in 1947. Most of them are now holding chairs in West-Germany. His particular interests were the disorders of circulation which he studied by serial angiography. This formed the subject of a book written in association with Wilhelm Tönnis in 1959 (2), which even today is by no means outdated. After training under Tönnis in Bochum-Landendreer and at the Neurosurgical University Clinic and the Max-Planck-Institut in Cologne, Schiefer became Oberarzt in the Tönnis' service. From there he was called to Erlangen to build up a neurosurgical team which shortly afterwards was separated as a department of its own and in 1965 enlarged and made into an independent Neurosurgical University Clinic with a full chair.

Only two years later he was invited to follow his great teacher in Cologne, when he had retired. However, he decided to stay in Erlangen where he was thanked by spontaneous academic actions by his students and assistants. He was then made Dean of the Faculty and finally in 1978, together with his neurological colleague, was given a new supermodern building in-

cluding an excellent ICU. Here, in this clinic, one of his last achievements was to direct in 1980 the annual meeting of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Neurochirurgie, which is still in everyones memory.

In his scientific work he has always been in the forefront. We have mentioned cerebral vascular pathology and radiology. Moreover he at once took up echo-encephalography and held an excellent International Symposium in Erlangen in 1967, which was published as a monograph (1). He was one of the first in our country to take up computer tomography, with excellent results. He published books and chapters in the handbooks on these subjects in which he was particularly interested. His scientific ability is proven by more than 100 publications in special journals, as is his ability for organization by the various symposia and meetings he held in Erlangen. Although he suffered a mild coronary two years ago we all had expected that he would survive after retirement to an “otium cum dignitate” which he had richly deserved after a life of hard work.

Wolfgang Schiefer was an excellent neurosurgeon but was also outstanding in his attitude towards his patients. There was no time of the day and night where he was not readily available for a conversation with them or the relatives. He was one of the few people who still had a well-formed and impressive personality. He was as reliable in his personal life as in his scientific work. Modest, not loud in his appearance, but clear and precise in his opinions; these were the particulars of his character. A fine neurosurgeons life has been abruptly ended. We had hoped to have him amongst us für many more years.

Editors and Publishers  
of the Neurosurgical Review

### *References*

1. Kazner, E., W. Schiefer, K. J. Zülch: Proceedings in Echo-Encephalography. Int. Symp. on Echo-Encephalography, Erlangen, April 14th and 15th, 1967. Springer-Verlag, Berlin-Heidelberg-New York 1968

2. Tönnis, W., W. Schiefer: Zirkulationsstörungen des Gehirns im Serienangiogramm. Springer-Verlag, Berlin-Göttingen-Heidelberg 1959