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AUTHOR'S FOREWORD

All segments of the medical profession give much lip service to the need for basic research. Investigators seeking support all too often find that the words, which sounded so grand at the annual meeting, carry no backing in dollars or in administrative help. The vision of the speaker runs out at this time.

It is widely proclaimed that orthopaedic surgery needs basic research. It does, but it is difficult for a would-be investigator to find backing for an orthopaedic problem. If he has already found a cure for cancer, funds are forthcoming in unlimited amounts. When he was beginning to seek the answer to cancer, funds seemed to be the equivalent of water in the Sahara at noon. There are many sides to this problem, and efforts are being made to correct this situation so that the drought may be minimized in time and degree.

The writer has sampled the difficulties alluded to so briefly above. Coming to Henry Ford Hospital was equivalent to arriving at an oasis! Relatively little was said about supporting research; instead a laboratory was built, equipped and manned and necessary channels of communication established to make it a going concern. The writer was then handed this set-up, freely and without any interference, in spite of the fact that the time devoted to research must of necessity hamper the clinical work that is not only necessary but is the life-blood of the institution. Seldom has the kind of vision illustrated by these briefly stated facts been encountered in medicine. It is an enormous tribute to the policy-making group of the Hospital, and in particular to Dr. C. Leslie Mitchell, that a basic program of research was encouraged in this fashion. The work that has been, is and shall be published from the Henry Ford Hospital Orthopaedic Research Laboratory literally is the result of Dr. Mitchell's solid aid. Without his aid, the writer would still be doing research but would not have accomplished anything.

Therefore, while the writer feels singularly honored to have an issue of the Bulletin devoted to his work, the reader should understand that it should be far better considered as Dr. Mitchell's issue.

Accordingly, the issue and the work published in it are dedicated to Dr. Mitchell. He has given solid evidence of his belief that research in orthopaedics should be done and supported. It is the job of those of us working in the Laboratory to justify his efforts.

HAROLD M. FROST, M.D.

*It should be noted here that there were bright spots before the current program at Henry Ford Hospital got underway. Help and encouragement were received from Dr. J. D. Godfrey and K. L. Terplan, Buffalo, N. Y., from C. O. Bechtol, Los Angeles, Calif., and from Dr. D. M. Bosworth, New York City.