

C. Miller Fisher

An Appreciation

R.T. Ross

In 1980 Miller Fisher retires as Professor of Neurology and Neurologist at the Massachusetts General Hospital, but there will probably be little change in his function. He is to continue as a Senior Consultant and as Emeritus Professor at Harvard Medical School. He will carry on with future generations of students and residents in the emergency room and on the wards with his own style of after dark clinical neurology.

September 7th, 1980 was marked as C. Miller Fisher Day by the Boston neurology community. Thirty-three brief papers on various neurological subjects were presented in the Ether Dome of the Massachusetts General Hospital. In the evening a dinner in honor of Doris and Miller was attended by about 200 friends. The dinner guests came from all areas of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Italy and Japan. Miller's portrait by George Augusta was presented at the end of the dinner.

The scientific day was planned by Drs. E.P. Richardson, Raymond D. Adams, J. Philip Kistler and others, and the dinner was chaired by Jay Mohr. All did a superb job. One can see and hear some of Miller's gestures, mannerisms, and English usage in Jay Mohr; an impressive teacher this Fisher.

Neurological teachers, with few exceptions, have no shortage of wit, kindness and enthusiasm, and they

usually have an abundance of eccentricities to endear them to their pupils. Miller has his share. He might have lunch with the residents and suggest that they meet on a particular ward, let us say, "twoish . . ." Twoish often became "fourish" or "eightish" or later and everyone except Miller knew it. This is not to suggest a lesion in whatever part of the brain harbors the time sense, he merely preferred Fisher-time to Greenwich mean time.

At the dinner a dozen people spoke. Almost all had humorous anecdotes and recollections and all showed great admiration, affection and respect.

What of the facts, the vital curriculum of this person honored by so many on this occasion? He was born in Waterloo, Canada and graduated M.D. from the University of Toronto in 1938. He served with the Royal Navy and the Royal Canadian Navy. He trained in neurology at the Montreal Neurological Institute, the Harvard Medical School and in neuropathology at the Montreal General Hospital. He is now a Professor of Neurology at Harvard and Neurologist to the Massachusetts General Hospital. His interests, publications and contributions in neurology are diverse and acknowledged world-wide. He has accomplished all this and remained a kind and thoughtful person, a great listener to, and observer of, the sick.

We have all benefited from his career.