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COVER LEGEND

German pharmacologist Hermann Druckrey (b. 1904) received his education in Giessen, Heidelberg, and Leipzig. In 1942, he became professor of pharmacology and toxicology at the University of Berlin, and by 1965, he became Director of Forscherguppe Praeventivmedizin, a foundation of Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, occupying the building at Stefan-Meier Strasse 8, Freiburg (illustrated).

Professor Druckrey has devoted his career to research in cancer biochemistry, chemotherapy, and carcinogenesis. His systematic studies on the relationships between chemical structure, dose, time, route of administration, and the condition of the host have been especially fruitful with N-nitroso compounds, hydrazo-, azo-, and azoxyalkanes, and triazenes. He and his co-workers recorded their important findings in a long series of papers during the 1960's in Naturwissenschaften and in Zeitschrift für Krebsforschung (e.g., H. Druckrey, R. Preussmann, S. Ivanovic, and D. Schmähl. Organotrope carcinogene Wirkungen bei 65 verschiedenen N-Nitroso-Verbindungen an BD Ratten. Z. Krebsforsch., 69: 103–201, 1967).

Three neoplastic effects are illustrated: brain glioma in rat following single transplacental dose of ethylnitrosourea (top); gastric adenocarcinoma in guinea pig fed methylnitrosourethan (center); and colonic multiple adenocarcinoma in rat given injections s.c. of azoxy methane (bottom).

Nitrosamine carcinogenesis gained significance when it was shown that such compounds occur in foods and in cigarette smoke, and that they were formed in food in the presence of nitrates (cf. Lancet, 1: 1071–1072, 1968). These compounds are among candidates as environmental carcinogens in human cancer, especially of the gastrointestinal tract.

We are indebted to Professor Druckrey for the portrait, taken in 1965, and the illustrations and hope that his fruitful years of experimental work, which ended in 1972, are now replaced by an equally gratifying retirement.