Major Richard Weil, M.R.C.

If, in the paths of the world,
Stones might have wounded thy feet,
Toil or dejection have tried
Thy spirit, of that we saw
Nothing; to us thou wert still
Cheerful, and helpful, and firm.
—Matthew Arnold.

The Journal of Cancer Research records with the deepest regret the loss of its Managing Editor, Dr. Richard Weil.

Hardly had war been declared before Dr. Weil, with characteristic generosity, offered himself to the Government. He shortly received a Captain's commission in the Medical Reserve Corps and was detailed to Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, where all the summer was spent in arduous preparation for new duties. Even among such a large group his ability could not but be noticed, and it was no surprise to hear, in October, that he had been advanced to the rank of Major and appointed Chief of Medical Service at the Base Hospital, Camp Wheeler, Macon, Georgia. Here he commenced his responsible task, and here, on November 19, 1917, it was completed; for, having driven himself to the point of exhaustion in attending the unusually large number of patients committed to his care, he was unable to overcome an attack of pneumonia from which one who had lived less unselfishly might have been saved.

Dr. Weil was born in New York City in 1876, and graduated from Columbia College in 1896. After having received the degree of M.D. from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, in 1900, he entered the German Hospital, New York, to serve as interne, and, following this, spent two years in study abroad, chiefly in Marchand's laboratory. He then returned to New York to devote himself to scientific medicine.
In 1904, he became pathologist to the German Hospital, whence he published a treatise on "Urine and Feces in Diagnosis," in collaboration with Drs. Hensel and Jelliffe. Two years later he joined the staff of the Huntington Fund for Cancer Research, and at the Loomis Laboratory initiated those investigations on the reactions of cancer and immune sera which thereafter absorbed his chief interest. His first studies concerned the hemolytic and antitryptic action of cancer serum. In 1910, he showed that the blood of syphilitics is extremely sensitive to hemolysis by cobra venom and, on the basis of this reaction, devised an exceptionally delicate clinical test for luetic infection. In a series of experiments on anaphylaxis, he elucidated this obscure condition to a notable degree by demonstrating that the sensitization is essentially cellular in origin.

In 1913, Dr. Weil became assistant director of cancer research and attending physician at the Memorial Hospital and gave much of his time to developing the organization of that institution. Here he perfected and employed the method of transfusing citrated blood. Having served also on the staffs of the Montefiore Home and Mt. Sinai Hospital, he had acquired an unusually high degree of diagnostic skill in a wide field of medicine, and, in 1915, was made professor of experimental medicine in Cornell University.

His extensive horizon is amply evident from the large number of societies to which he belonged; these included the New York Academy of Medicine, the American Medical Association, the New York State and County Medical Societies, the New York Pathological Society, the Association of American Physicians, the American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists, the American Association of Immunologists, and the American Society for the Control of Cancer.

His chief interest, however, was always reserved for the problems of cancer. Thus, he became one of the founders of the American Association for Cancer Research and, at the request of its Council, assumed the burden of establishing this Journal, which he served most faithfully and, by reason of his thorough knowledge of the literature of cancer, most effectively. By his
untimely death American cancer research loses one of its most scholarly and accomplished workers.

The following is a list of Dr. Weil's later and more important publications:

Hemolytic properties of organ and tumor extracts. Journal of Medical Research, 1907, xvi, 287.
The hemolytic reactions of the blood in dogs affected with transplantable lymphosarcoma. Archives of Internal Medicine, 1908, i, 23.
The hemolytic reactions in cases of human cancer. Journal of Medical Research, 1908, xix, 281.
Properties of ascitic fluids, especially in cases of cancer. Journal of Medical Research, 1910, xxiii, 85.
The nature of anaphylaxis, and the relations between anaphylaxis and immunity. Journal of Medical Research, 1913, xxvii, 497.
A study of the blood in rats recovered from implanted sarcoma. Journal of Experimental Medicine, 1913, xviii, 390.
Studies in anaphylaxis:
  I. On the sensitizing dose in active anaphylaxis.
  II. On passive sensitization by heterologous immune serum. Its duration and its prevention.
  III. The phenomena of so-called saturation and displacement in anaphylaxis.
  IV. "Saturation" and "displacement" in active sensitization, and in passive homologous sensitization. Journal of Medical Research, 1913, xxviii, 243.
Studies in anaphylaxis:
  VI. A study of the cellular theory by the graphic method.
Studies in Anaphylaxis:

VII. The relation between antibody content and lethal dose in anaphylaxis.

VIII. The function of circulating antibody and the avidity of cellular antibody.

IX. The relation between partial desensitization and the minimal lethal dose in anaphylaxis.

X. The persistence of intracellular antigen as a factor in immunity.

XI. The share of intracellular antigen in immunity and in desensitization. Theoretical considerations. Journal of Medical Research, 1914, xxx, 87, 299.

XIII. Activation of antibody by the cell. Journal of Medical Research, 1915, xxxii, 107.


Studies in anaphylaxis:

XIV. On the relation between precipitin and sensitiein.


XVI. Dissociation.

XVII. On the coexistence of antigen and antibody in the body. Journal of Immunology, 1916, i, 1.


Note on skin reaction in pneumonia. Journal of Experimental Medicine, 1916, xxiii, 11.


Studies in anaphylaxis:


The immune reaction to tuberculous infection. Journal of the American Medical Association, 1917, lxviii, 972.

The vasomotor depression in canine anaphylaxis. Journal of Immunology, 1917, ii, 429.

The relation between antigen and antibody in the living animal. Journal of Immunology, 1917, ii, 399.

Studies in anaphylaxis:

XX. The reciprocal relations of antigen and antibody within the cell. Journal of Immunology, 1917, ii, 469.
Studies in anaphylaxis:


XXII. Anaphylactic reactions of the isolated dog's liver. Journal of Immunology, 1917, ii, 571.