

IN MEMORIAM

Frank G. Boudreau was a leader for many years in the advancement of public health among all nations. He was beloved by many throughout the world for his sympathetic understanding of their needs, his wise judgments and helpful guidance. Few men have led a more useful life of public service. Now that he is gone, we who loved and honored him in life can appreciate even more keenly in retrospect what his friendship and example have meant to us.

Frank Boudreau was born of American parents in New Glasgow, Quebec, on July 18, 1886. He died in Amherst, Massachusetts, on February 14, 1970, after a long disabling illness. He was sustained throughout by the love and constant devotion of his wife, Charlotte.

Frank's parents were the Reverend M. F. and Ann (Ward) Boudreau. He married Charlotte L. Dickson in 1911, a year after he received his medical degree from McGill University. In addition to Charlotte, he leaves a son, William F. Boudreau of York, Pennsylvania, a daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Jaffe of Amherst, and five grandchildren.

After completing his clinical training, he entered upon his career in public health in 1912, as epidemiologist in the Ohio State Department of Health. Three years later he succeeded to the directorship of the Department's Division of Communicable Diseases. In 1917, he joined the U. S. Army, in which he served for two years with the final rank of major. Upon discharge from the army in 1919, he returned to Ohio as Chief of the State's Bureau of Local Health Organizations, in which he served with distinction for six years.

In 1925, he accepted an appointment in Geneva, Switzerland as epidemiologist statistician in the Health Organization of the League of

Nations. During 1930–34 he was Chief of the Bureau of Epidemiological Intelligence and Public Health Statistics of the League of Nations. Shortly thereafter, he became Director of the Health Organization of the League. In this important capacity he traveled widely in Europe and in Russia, as well as in the Near and the Far East, and the countries of South America. This provided him with an opportunity to learn at first hand and to evaluate the major health problems that confronted most of the nations of the world. During these travels he also made innumerable friendships in many parts of the globe, for which he had a high talent. In 1929–1930 he conducted a health study of all the major Chinese ports in connection with the League's program of economic and social cooperation with the government of the Republic of China.

Following the death of Edgar Sydenstricker in 1936, the late Albert G. Milbank, then President and Chairman of the Board of the Milbank Memorial Fund, seized upon the opportunity to secure Frank Boudreau's services as Executive Director of the Fund. He took office on April 1, 1937, as successor to his distinguished predecessors, John A. Kingsbury and Edgar Sydenstricker. In November, 1939, he also assumed the chairmanship of the Fund's Technical Board, as successor to Livingston Farrand. On March 31, 1956, upon the recommendation of Mr. Samuel R. Milbank, Chairman of the Board of Directors and in recognition of his many outstanding public services and world renown, Doctor Boudreau was elected President of the Fund. He served as President until his retirement in June, 1962.

After joining the Fund in 1937, Doctor Boudreau continued to support its previous interests in the improvement of public health practices and population research. Under his direction, the Fund also extended its support in several new directions—the social- and health-related problems of nutrition, mental health and the hygiene of housing.

The onset of World War II revealed an urgent need to protect the American people and their allies against food deficiencies and to combat a threatening increase in the serious but often clinically obscure deficiency diseases. In collaboration with his Scottish friend, Lord [John] Boyd Orr, later to be Nobel Laureate, Boudreau alerted the nation concerning the nutritional hazards then facing the people of our country and the world. In collaboration with the U.S. Public Health Service and the Surgeon General, Dr. Thomas Parran, then a member of its Technical Board, the Fund sponsored and directed investigations

into the nutritional status of WPA and industrial workers, school children and their mothers. With the cooperation of local medical and public health schools, it enabled health professionals to recognize the clinical manifestations of nutritional deficiencies and to treat them.

To further the Fund's aim Doctor Bourdeau agreed in 1940 to serve as a member of the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council. At his suggestion, the Board created a special Committee on the Nutrition of Industrial Workers with Boudreau as Chairman. As a result of his committee's findings, the War Food Administration established a section on the feeding of industrial workers.

In 1941, Doctor Boudreau acceded to the chairmanship of the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council and continued in this important post during the next ten years. As a result of the Board's findings of widespread nutritional deficiencies in the general population of the country, the War Food Administration ordered the enrichment of white flour and white bread with thiamine, riboflavin and nicotinamide as a war measure. This was soon followed by the enactment of similar legislation by most of the states.

Frank Boudreau's concern with the hygiene of housing began when he was Director of the Health Organization of the League of Nations. While still in Geneva, he appointed Dr. C. E. A. Winslow of Yale as chairman of an international committee on this problem. In accordance with this committee's recommendations, the American Public Health Association created a U. S. Committee on the Hygiene of Housing, whose financial support over the years came largely from the Milbank Memorial Fund.

In 1948, Doctor Boudreau advised the Fund's Board of Directors that the time had come for the Fund to take an active role in mental health, a field in which the institutions of this country were far behind those of Britain and the countries of northern Europe. He also advised the Fund of new opportunities for the prevention and amelioration of mental illness.

To give an indication of the scope of Dr. Boudreau's varied interests, the following is a partial list of organizations in which he served, in several as President: State Communities Aid Association, Community Service Society, National Tuberculosis Association, The Population Council, The Nutrition Foundation, National Vitamin Foundation, U. N. Interim Committee on Food and Agriculture, National Citizens Committee for the World Health Organization, American Association

for the United Nations, World Health Assembly, American Public Health Association, Public Health Association of New York City, New York Community Trust, Council of the Eye Bank for Sight Restoration, New York Academy of Medicine, New York Academy of Science, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University and New York School of Social Work.

His honors include an LL.D. from Glasgow University, Scotland, in 1945, Chevalier de l'ordre de la Santé Publique, France in 1946 and the Lasker Award of the APHA in 1957.

From this recital, it might be inferred that Frank Boudreau was an aggressive activist. Far from it! He was a kind, soft-spoken gentleman with a fine sense of humor and a gay sparkle in his eye. Although he was an attentive listener to those who appealed to him for help, he was not easily fooled by the insincere and the incompetent. He was a wonderful friend to those whom he loved, which was reflected in the love returned by those of us who knew him well.

GEORGE BAEHR, M.D.

*Member, Board of Directors
and Technical Board*