

FAREWELL SPEECH

Retirement Dinner 2nd July 1975

Dr Chew Chin Hin

Fellow Academicians

We meet and dine tonight to do honour and to bid "au revoir" to Professor Sir Gordon Ransome, our First Master.

This is not an occasion, and I'm sure it is not Sir Gordon's wish that I should speak at length tonight. Numerous well deserved and worthy citations have been delivered in honour of our First Master, and indeed our first Gordon Arthur Ransome Oration was devoted in its entirety to his life and times.

Nevertheless, it is fitting and proper that as Master I should say a few words on him, on the eve of his retirement from public service, for especially to us of the Academy Sir Gordon must be numbered amongst the truly great.

I am sure you will all agree that the first prerequisites which makes such a man is that he should be a *good* man in the fullest sense of that commonly abused adjective. In Sir Gordon's case, the quality is clearly evident for ever so often in the many decades that he has been with us we have heard this familiar exclamation: "he is good, he is kind and at all times he is a gentle man!" from the grateful many he has treated, taught and helped. And to quote from our own Archives "a cry for help is always answered with alacrity." Thus said the first Gordon Arthur Ransome Orator, Academician Seah Cheng Siang, one of his many ardent disciples.

This leads me to another quality upon which a man is required to possess to be considered truly great. The man must multiply himself in his disciples so that on his retirement he leaves no vacuum. Alas all too many otherwise great men have failed to do so. This quality, Sir Gordon, you have again more than amply fulfilled, your disciples are many, and we are deeply grateful.

Sir Gordon Ransome's own contributions to the advancement of Medicine have been immense, and rightly he is regarded as the Founder of modern Medicine in Singapore and in peninsular Malaysia. But let not be forgotten he is above all else a Physician who, throughout his active professional career made his services freely available alike to the rich and to the poor, to the mighty and to the lowly- truly, he is a beloved Physician. These qualities of his own can only call us to humility.

And now, on behalf of your Fellow Academicians, Professor Ransome, it is my humble privilege to request you to accept our warm wishes for a long and happy retirement together with this small gift as a token of our great esteem on which is inscribed these words: He retires with the knowledge that the Academy of Medicine is now well established, the result of his foresight, and we salute our Master.