

The Gordon Arthur Ransome Commemorative Issue



*“Old Soldiers Never Die,
They Just Fade Away”*

MacArthur D

It is my pleasure to present, on behalf of the Editorial Board, this — the G A R Commemorative Issue of the Annals.

Sir Gordon Arthur Ransome is an institution of our times! He stepped onto the shores of Singapore in 1938, an eager-eyed Associate Professor of Medicine. Over the next 37 years he served as doctor, educator, researcher, soldier and academician. He gave of himself unstintingly and humbly. He was an astute student of medicine and an example *par excellence* of someone moulded in the “old school”, at a time when the practice of medicine was as much an art as a science. He was truly physician, philosopher and friend.

In his lifetime, he must have taught two thousand or more medical students and served to bridge two generations of doctors. To be Ransome’s student is a matter of pride and honour. He had a distinguished war record. He was the first Master of the Academy. His vision and verve did not diminish with time or age.

The first part of the G A R Memorial Issue tells stories, as G A R used to do, of his life and times. This includes anecdotes and appreciations, in prose and poem, by many of his friends. Part two highlights the works of the man which spanned over 30 years. Many of his papers are on neurology, his pet speciality. But his interest in medicine was wide ranging. The varied articles in this issue reflect, in a way, G A R’s broad view of medicine. This memoir ends with his obituary.

The editors of the Annals are indeed proud to present this commemorative issue, and I thank all concerned who has contributed to this memorable event.

Chan Heng Leong
Associate Professor,
University of Singapore
Guest Editor
Annals of the Academy of Medicine



The Prayer of a Physician

*Endow me with a strength of heart and mind
So that both may be ready to serve
The rich and poor, the good and wicked, friend and enemy
And may I never see in the patient
Anything else but a fellow creature in pain*

Moses Maimonides, A.D. 1135—1204