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IN MEMORIAM

DR. WILLIAM M. MALISOFF

Since the turn of the century there has been a strong trend to break through the wall which has separated philosophy from the "special sciences" and to investigate the problems which require a good judgment in both philosophy and science. The evolution of science itself and the increasing relevance of science in human life have given immense momentum to this trend. But this momentum could not be appreciated in its actual strength because scientists who wanted to raise their voices had trouble in finding a Journal where they could communicate with the people who were interested, for almost all the scientific journals were devoted exclusively to technical papers. In founding *Philosophy of Science* Dr. Malisoff started the construction of a channel by which this important flow of scientific investigation could reach its public. This line of thought found in the journal a possibility of self-expression and it became a real force in the life of the community of scientists and scholars, and even of educated men in general. From the first volume, papers were published which have later been quoted in every discussion about the philosophy of science. I mention, as an example only, R. Carnap's paper on *Testability and Meaning*. Nobody who has wanted information and stimulation in this modern field of investigation could get it without looking into Malisoff's *Philosophy of Science*.

Considering the specialization and occasional hyperspecialization of the average scientist, it was not easy to find a scientist able to edit a journal of this type. Dr. Malisoff was by his personality as well as by his background and training well fitted to this task. He felt also the responsibility and took the initiative which had been awaited a long time, but which no other scientist had dared to take.

Dr. Malisoffs proper field of research was biochemistry and, in particular, the properties of enzymes and hormones. He did not restrict himself to "pure science" but worked hard on the application of biochemistry to medical questions. It was perhaps a tragic fate which the Old Greeks would have called "envy of the gods" that Dr. Malisoff passed away at the peak of his scientific activity when he had just made an attempt to prolong the period of vigorous life which has been granted by nature to the human race.

Dr. Malisoff, however, was also a competent expert in mathematics, physics, and biology, with a good sprinkling of psychology, sociology, and economics. One could hardly imagine a background better fitted to advance our knowledge on the philosophy of science and to organize research in this field. His most characteristic personality trait was perhaps the absence of any narrow-mindedness.

Although he himself had very definite views, he published in his journal papers of a very wide range of opinion, provided they were written in a scientific spirit. He did not believe, either, that science by itself was the only spring in human life. He appreciated deeply the place of scientific activity as a part of the whole spectrum of human activity which embraces also social, political, religious, and artistic activity. He never failed to give his support to the cause of the underdog and to any cause which was, according to his judgment, in the line of progress toward a better world.

His greatest relaxation and his profoundest enjoyment he got, probably, from the arts, particularly from music. Everybody who, like myself, had the privilege to know him in his life among his family and his friends knows how happy he felt when able musicians produced examples of their ability to him and his guests in his home.

The wide range of his intellectual and social interests was, of course, responsible for a certain restlessness which meant a perpetual strain on his nerves and on his health in general. This strain was compensated to a high degree by his happy family life. His wife, a good companion in the battle of life, was tied to him by a strong feeling of admiration and affection. He left two daughters and one son. Both daughters have worked in the field of medicine and have partly collaborated with their father in his biochemical research. One of them is already a graduate physician. Both are, in addition to their professional medical work, accomplished musicians. Eda is a pianist, Vera a violinist; both show talent and ability far above the average. Like their father they combine intellectual curiosity with artistic longing and leaning. His son is a very promising student of painting.

Dr. Malisoff's unexpected passing away is certainly a serious turning point in the history of this journal and of the movement for cooperation between science and philosophy.

PHILIP FRANK

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Dr. Malisoff died very suddenly in New York, on November 15. His death has come as a severe shock, not only to those interested in the philosophy of science, but to the whole scientific world.

Dr. Malisoff was born in Russia fifty-two years ago; he started his academic career at Columbia, and was associated at various times with the University of Pennsylvania, Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, and the Essex School of Medicine.

He was one of the scientific rareties of the present age: a significant contributor to both philosophic thought and to two special fields of science, physics and biochemistry. On the philosophic side he was the author of *A Calendar of Doubts and Faiths, Meet the Sciences*, and a series of brilliant articles in this journal and elsewhere. In biochemistry, he prepared in 1943 a *Dictionary of Bio-chemistry*. He founded the Longevity Research Foundation two years ago. This foundation has been working on two Russian serums, ACS and KR, both of which seem to have very remarkable properties; the one for wound healing, the other for cancer reduction. Malisoff's results added considerably to those the Russians had already

obtained. In his *Span of Life*, he set down in delightful style the objectives of longevity research, and called the scientist's attention to its extreme importance.

His life was a full one, and his interests and influence widespread. As just one example, consider his *New Budget of Paradoxes*, which appeared in this journal, a compilation which by itself was enough to make him the DeMorgan of our day.

His was the kind of mind so sorely needed in these days in our philosophical thinking. He had the genius and courage to propose ideas and theories which were at variance with the accepted academic code of thought. But his opposition to the accepted standards of correct thinking was no anarchistic one. He had a well thought-out plan for his philosophy, and the impact of this thinking on the conservatives in the philosophical world could not help but have fruitful effects.

C. WEST CHURCHMAN