



Alfred Reich, B.S.

Department of Clinical Pathology, 1921-1962
Member of the Assistant Staff, 1951-1960
Emeritus Consultant, 1960-1962

Born November 1, 1894
Died May 22, 1962

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THE loss of a professional associate of long standing always brings sorrow to his friends and colleagues, and this is particularly true in the case of Alfred Reich, who died in the Cleveland Clinic Hospital on May 22, 1962, as the result of myocardial failure following several coronary insults over a period of years. No living member of the staff and personnel of the Cleveland Clinic has served the institution as long as he, for he began his service with the opening of the Clinic on February 26, 1921, and continued his work here for forty-one years.

Born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, November 1, 1894, he moved with his family to New York City before he was a year old, and he always considered that metropolis his real boyhood home. His father was a printer for one of the city newspapers, and Al with his brothers and sisters attended grade school and high school, and aided the family finances by various odd jobs, including work on a New Jersey farm. There he became interested in agriculture as a possible occupation for life, and he entered Michigan State University at East Lansing, Michigan, and followed the appropriate course in that field. His first contact with bacteriology came during that period and soon claimed his interest for the remainder of his life. He helped to defray his academic expenses by working in the Michigan State Laboratories. He was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Science.

Entering the Army in World War I, he was first assigned to a Field Artillery Unit at Camp Custer, Michigan, but when his outstanding ability as a bacteriologist became known to authorities, he was soon transferred to the Medical Corps to work in the laboratories of the Base Hospital at the camp. There he worked under the instruction of his commanding officer, Dr. David Marine, distinguished member of the Faculty of Medicine of Western Reserve University.

For a short time after the war, he worked in the offices of private physicians in Detroit, before coming to Cleveland at the suggestion of Doctor Marine, who had been appointed to organize and to head the laboratories of the newly planned Cleveland Clinic. He asked Al Reich to help him with this project, and to work with him as his assistant. Al accepted the post, but before the Clinic opened, Doctor Marine left Cleveland for New York and was soon replaced by Dr. Henry John.

Some months before the opening of the Clinic, Al came to Cleveland; he began his work with three of the Founders at their offices in the Osborn Building down-

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town, and he helped Doctor John with the establishment of the new laboratories at East 93d Street and Euclid Avenue. It was the privilege of this writer to work in the laboratory with Al Reich during the summer of 1921, learning for the first time many practical technics, including the Wassermann test, various staining methods for organisms and blood smears, and methods for culturing bacteria.

During his early years at the Clinic, Al developed great interest in the culture and identification of fungi, and he devised a number of modifications and improvements in staining and culture methods. He was not only a master technician with a full understanding of the principles of bacteriology and immunology, but also a fine teacher, as a generation of many students can testify. His quiet and modest nature, and his innate courtesy endeared him to all of his associates. Integrity of character and honesty of purpose and statement were natural qualities of the man, and his reliability became legendary. A final report on a culture or on the identification of an organism by Al Reich could be depended upon with absolute assurance.

On July 1, 1951, he was appointed to the Assistant Staff in the Department of Clinical Pathology, and from January 1, 1960, he served as Emeritus Consultant in that department until his death. Throughout his many years with us he gained the true respect and affectionate regard of all of his associates, who will miss his friendship and his expert professional assistance and advice. He is survived by his wife Lucile, his lawyer son James, of New York City, two sisters, and one brother. To all of them we extend the sincere sympathy of The Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

ALEXANDER T. BUNTS, M.D.