

Yu Chia-Chun, M.D.

1898–1969



Professor Yu was well known to leprosy workers in China previous to the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 and had represented China at the V International Leprosy Congress in Havana in 1948. He had graduated

from Cheeloo University School of Medicine in 1927 and later also received an M.D. degree from a Canadian medical school. In 1932, he took a year's special training in dermatology at the Vienna University Medical Center in Austria, and in 1947 he studied clinical dermatology at Columbia University Medical Center in New York.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Professor Yu worked with distinction in clinical dermatology and carried a large burden of teaching in this field. He lectured and taught about leprosy, traveling widely in this cause. During this time occasional reports of his work were heard of in Hong Kong from doctors who came from the People's Republic of China to practice in Hong Kong. On recent visits to China leprosy workers there have spoken with respect and admiration for his strong teaching influence on the leprosy control program. He published, in Chinese, a *Textbook of Leprosy* and another work entitled *Simplified New Concepts in Leprosy*. Since their publication these have been standard works in this field.

In addition to these activities Professor Yu held the following significant positions:

1. Member of the Second National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference
2. Member of the Third Standing Committee of Shan-Dong Provincial People's Political Consultative Committee
3. Senior professor of Shan-Dong Medical School
4. Chairman, Department of Dermatology, Shan-Dong Medical School
5. Director of Shan-Dong Provincial Dermatological Research Institute
6. Committee member in VD and dermatology section of Chinese Medical Association
7. Editorial committee member of *Chinese Journal of Dermatology*
8. Chairman of division in VD and dermatology of Shan-Dong Medical & Health Association
9. Member of Board of Directors of Shan-Dong Medical and Health Association

The Cultural Revolution was disruptive to his work. He was then denigrated by accusations and criticisms, and these experiences are thought to have contributed to his death on 13 February 1969 at the age of 71 years. Posthumously, in 1978, he was declared innocent, all his rights were restored, and his high reputation was recognized by the Shan-Dong Disciplinary Investigative Committee. A memorial of respect was published in the *Chinese Journal of Dermatology* 13 (1980) 6 (in Chinese) from which much of the above information has been derived.

It seems appropriate for the International Leprosy Association to join in tendering a posthumous, long delayed word of respect to this colleague in leprosy work who was long separated from colleagues around the world.

—Olaf K. Skinsnes

Postscript

We remember Dr. Yu Chia-Chun as an amiable scholar and an old friend. We wish to record Dr. Yu's help and support given to the Institute of Dermatology, which was founded in 1954. In his *Handbook on Venereal Diseases, Leprosy and Yaws*, published in 1957 by the Institute, Dr. Yu made particular contributions to the prevention and treatment of leprosy. In 1963, on our invitation, he came to the Institute to give a series of lectures on the histopathology of leprosy to our young dermatologists.

We are grateful to Dr. Olaf K. Skinsnes and Dr. Robert C. Hastings for their remembrance of Dr. Yu.

—C. K. Hu
—Ye Gan-yun