

Calling Attention to Chauncey D. Leake--  
Renaissance Scholar Extraordinaire

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Ever since its inception, *Current Contents*® readers have enjoyed the periodic book column by Professor Chauncey D. Leake entitled "Calling Attention To". It has been my pleasure to know Chauncey Leake since 1951 when he served as Chairman of the Advisory Committee to the Johns Hopkins Medical Indexing Project<sup>(1)</sup>. I began my career in scientific information on the project<sup>(2)</sup> after a brief but not particularly noteworthy career as a research chemist in the laboratory of Professor Louis P. Hammett<sup>(3)</sup>.

Indeed, it was Dr. Leake who originally inspired my work on citation indexing because he regularly called my attention to the failure of conventional abstracting and indexing services to take advantage of the real bibliographic significance of the reference citations in review papers.

My purpose here, however, is not merely to mention how my own career has been affected by Chauncey Leake. My purpose is to tell something about his rare qualities. Chauncey Leake combines the genius of a scientist with the wit of a poet and the breadth of a classical scholar.

It is true that at times our dear Chauncey may seem to have spread himself quite thin. It would be impossible for a man who has served so often in public scientific life to avoid that appearance. It is difficult to remain in touch with the intimate

details of the many fields in which he has taken an interest.

Here is a man who has been President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, one of the first Ph.D.'s to serve as dean of a medical School, President of the American Association for the History of Medicine, President of the History of Science Society, President of the American Pharmacology Society, Research Director of the California Wine Advisory Board, translator of Egyptian medical papyri, prolific contributor to medical and scientific journals, (over 600 publications including a book on the *Amphetamines*). In his spare time, Dr. Leake has managed to write about Percival's *Medical Ethics*, Leonardo da Vinci, and he has written a poem on the history of anesthesia. Above all else, he is an internationalist. I doubt if there is a scientist who has travelled the world more than this man, who has lectured in almost every civilized country.



Prof. Chauncey D. Leake

In recent years, Chauncey organized a series of Drug Information Conferences<sup>(4)</sup>. He wrote a regular column for *Geriatrics*. In addition, he actively participates in the activities of San Francisco's Bohemian Club as a theatrical light director. He has made

major contributions to the history of American medicine and science. One of his favorite words is *joy*--and it is a joy to call attention to the contributions of Chauncey D. Leake to the scientific community.

1. Larkey, S.V., "The Welch Medical Library Indexing Project", *Bull. Med. Lib. Assoc.*, **41**, 32-40 (1953).
2. Himwich, W.A., et al, "Survey of World Medical Serials and Coverage by Indexing and Abstracting Services", Johns Hopkins University, 1954, 82 pp.
3. Hammett, L.P., Bernhard, S.A., and Garfield, E., "Specific Effects in Acid Catalysis by Ion Exchange Resins. III. Some Observations on the Effect of Polyvalent Cations", *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, **76**, 991-992 (1954).
4. Welt, I.D., Editor, *Drug Information for the Health Professions*, (Gordon and Breach Science Publishers, New York, N.Y.) 1969, 465 pp.,