



## **Harold G. Ray, D.D.S.**

April 3, 1903—July 17, 1960

Dr. Harold Ray, who had been most active in organizing and presiding over the second workshop on teaching of periodontology, left immediately after the adjournment of this meeting for London, became ill en route to Europe and died July 17, 1960, in Guy's Hospital in London, England.

Dr. Ray, past president of the Academy of Periodontology, was recognized as an excellent teacher and a dedicated worker in dental education. He was active in the teaching of periodontology but always maintained a private practice of dentistry, for the last ten years limiting his activity to periodontics.

On the following pages are some of the many letters received about Dr. Harold Ray.

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Dr. Harold Ray, like his teacher Balint Orban, was a dynamic individual with an intense interest in periodontology and a profound desire to teach others of its importance. He chose the activities of the American Academy of Periodontology as a sphere of great influence and worked diligently in the organization toward education in periodontia.

When president of the Academy, he suggested that the Academy sponsor a workshop to study the objectives and methods of undergraduate teaching in periodontology. His proposal was received by the Council with mild enthusiasm and all agreed it would be a good idea worthy of further consideration. This, however, was all that Dr. Ray needed to make his idea a reality. In less than two years he had raised the money to support and publish the results of a workshop on the suggested subject. He selected a committee, organized the entire activity, and prosecuted the workshop in San Francisco. Six months following the workshop, he had edited the proceedings and had the results published in book form for world wide distribution to schools of dentistry to guide them in the teaching of periodontology.

This accomplishment gives some idea of Dr. Ray's directness of purpose, ability for organization, and dedication to periodontia.

The first workshop was so completely successful and productive that Dr. Ray suggested that the Academy sponsor a second one on the teaching of graduate and post-graduate periodontia. The Academy agreed with greater enthusiasm than previously and suggested that Harold and the committee that assisted him with the first workshop prosecute the second one. Again in two years' time, Dr. Ray organized and directed the second workshop which was held in Minneapolis in June of this year. Immediately following the workshop Harold left for Europe to join his family for a well earned vacation and to edit the proceedings of the workshop.

These two workshops will serve as a monument to Harold both in the Academy and in the field of dental education.

Harold Ray was a stimulating teacher who believed that periodontia was the most important phase of dentistry and directed all his energies toward the promoting of his belief. He was an ardent worker in the American Academy of Periodontology where his raspy voice, portly stature, and jovial manner will be sorely missed. Through his untimely death dentistry, and periodontia, in particular, has lost one of its most dynamic, enthusiastic, and forceful teachers. The loss is ours; the reward is his.

*Donald Kerr,  
University of Michigan  
School of Dentistry*

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A faculty may be thought of as a person—a living, growing, changing individual, the facets of whose character are the contribution of the members who make up the whole person. Some few faculty members make dominant and lasting contributions, and a very few actually shape and influence the destiny of the group. Such a man was Harold Ray.

Those of you who knew him, know what I mean. For those of you who never had the opportunity of experiencing the warmth, the stimulating vitality and intellectual vigor of this man, I could never paint an adequate word picture. Suffice it to say we will eventually appoint a person to succeed Dr. Ray on our staff, but never to replace him.

*Willard C. Fleming,  
Dean, School of Dentistry,  
University of California*

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The members of Northwestern University Dental School faculty who knew Harold Ray, and many did, were saddened to learn of his death in London on July 17. I arrived in London a day or two after Harold had his heart attack and was confined to Guy's Hospital, and in a conversation with his physician I realized that his condition was very serious.

Harold Ray graduated from Northwestern University in June, 1926, and immediately joined the faculty as a part-time teacher in endodontics and periodontics. I can still recall him as an understanding and helpful teacher. As we all know, his interest in periodontics continued throughout the years. He was not satisfied just to practice in this important field of dentistry, but continued always to take some formal training in subjects basic to a better understanding of periodontology. Even though he separated geographically from Northwestern University, we always had a great regard for him and for what he stood.

*George W. Teuscher,  
Dean, Northwestern University  
Dental School*

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Dr. Ray was an eloquent speaker and a very effective teacher. He was well liked by his students as best expressed when a senior stated, "it is unfortunate that death should take one of our best teachers from the school." He was a man who was sympathetic with the problems of the undergraduate and graduate student.

Dr. Ray was not only a good teacher of the students, but I too learned from him both as to teaching methods as well as additional information in the field of Periodontology. Only as he is gone am I now beginning to realize what a tremendous task he performed and the odds under which he had to work. Frankly, the balance of the faculty at the school did not share his views in the need for raising the standards of teaching of Periodontology. He gave of his time in constantly combatting the limitations which were imposed upon the department. In addition, he had just completed a presentation to the Academic Planning Committee and obtained the approval for the establishment of a research institute in the field of Periodontology as a part of the Medical Center campus. I need not list his many achievements as a teacher, lecturer, researcher, the father of the Teachers Workshops in Periodontology, member of the American Board of Periodontology, an influential man in raising the standards of dentistry and periodontia in the service and in lay dentistry.

Destiny has ordained that few men should live and contribute as much as did Harold Ray. No greater tribute can be paid anyone in his obituary than to say that the world is better off for his having lived. I consider it a signal honor to say that he was my friend.

*Perry A. Ratcliff,  
School of Dentistry,  
University of California*

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I was shocked to hear of the untimely death of Dr. Harold Ray. All who have had the privilege of knowing him are aware of the great loss this is to the dental profession.

With his enthusiasm and capacity for organizational effort, Dr. Ray made great contributions to the field of dental education and the specialty of Periodontology. He will long be remembered for his contributions to the progress of dentistry as a teacher and scientist.

*Joseph L. Bernier,  
Major General, D. C.,  
Assistant Surgeon General  
and Chief of the Dental Corps*

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The passing of Harold Ray leaves another void in the roster of Academy membership and in the field of periodontia. He was a man of boundless energy and capacity to get things done. His enthusiasm and dedication to the cause of better teaching in periodontia were an inspiration to all who knew him. Those of us who had been on his staff at the University of California Dental School had great respect for his teaching ability and his talent for organization. Whether in the affairs of the Academy, at the School or meetings of State and Local Dental Societies, Harold was untiring in his efforts to do the very best that he was capable of doing. He set a pattern that will be difficult for those who follow in his footsteps. One of the highest ideals in life is Service—Harold had that ideal.

*Dickson G. Bell, D.D.S.,  
San Francisco 8, California*

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The news of Harold Ray's death produced in those who knew him best a reaction of shocking disbelief, so vital was his presence during his lifetime. One suspects that as the months roll by, there will be further reluctant realizations of our loss as we enter situations in which we were accustomed to having his help. His views on curriculum development and long range planning for the University of California are fortunately set down in writing, but to take a selfish view, we would be so much better off if we could have him with us to face the future which interested him so much.

*Wendell L. Wylie,  
Associate Dean, School of Dentistry,  
University of California*

The periodontal community of San Francisco lost a great leader in the passing of Harold G. Ray. His lofty ideals of the role of periodontics in organized dentistry coupled with his creative genius and enthusiasm for hard work left a lasting imprint in the minds and hearts of all of us, who were privileged to work with him.

*Alvin C. Hileman, D.M.D., M.S.,  
Chairman, Department of Periodontics,  
College of Physicians and Surgeons  
of San Francisco*

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And, around us Death's inexorable hand  
Draws the dark curtain close; undrawn no more  
(The complaint, Night 6)

If ever, these words of poet *Edward Joun*g have found these days a frightening implementation within the ranks of world's leading parodontologists. After the sudden passing away of B. Orban and the dramatic death of K. Häupl on June 29, there reached us on the 17th July from London the sad message that *Harold G. Ray* of Palo Alto, California, has succumbed there of a heart failure.

Harold G. Ray, a full time professor and chairman of the Department of Periodontology at the University of California School of Dentistry, San Francisco had just arrived in Europe where he was to spend his sabbatical leave which he had meticulously mapped-out to serving and enriching his chosen profession. He was scheduled on the programmes of the Congress of the American Dentists of Europe in Edinburgh, the Centennial Celebration of the Swedish Dental Association in Stockholm, and the Congress of Arpa International in Vienna.

But coming to Europe Harold Ray, the type of American scientist of the newer generation, was fully aware that such a visit has a reciprocal value. "Do ut des" (I give, thou give me) was his conviction; to this he planned to make his headquarters in Düsseldorf at the Westdeutsche Kieferklinik of K. Häupl in order to learn the many beneficial aspects of functional therapy. He planned to visit with many other universities; to come to Geneva, the headquarters of ARPA and WHO, to learning about the international aspects of his specialty. He availed himself of the introduction to many health ministries including those of Poland and USSR.

Dr. H. G. Ray was born in Chicago in 1902. He was graduated from Northwestern University College of Dentistry in 1926 and taught on the staff there in dental pathology until 1933. His keen interest into the problems of periodontia was much fostered by the personal contact with B. Orban. At the age of 45, giving up a flourishing private practise, he took up graduate studies at the University of Illinois. In 1949 he was given a Master of Science degree in histology after having submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements a thesis entitled "The gingival structures in diabetes mellitus" (J. Period. 21:85, 1950). This proved to become a turning point in his life. His inner vocation for learning and teaching determined him to accept the offer of Dr. H. Becks to join the staff of this outstanding leader in Oral Biology at the University of California. Dean Fleming, himself today one of America's greatest dental educators, soon recognized the rare qualities of this combined researcher and practitioner and entrusted him the newly created chair of periodontology.

The accomplishments of H. Ray in the field of periodontology are impressive. His clear, systematic manner of thinking coupled with his broad experience and knowledge made him an excellent teacher. His courses were highly appreciated by his undergraduate and postgraduate students. Beyond the borders of the States he was a much sought-after speaker at meetings and conventions. The 38th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Periodontology installed him president specifically honoring him for his services rendered to the science and dental specialty of periodontology.

For the advancement of his dental specialty he clearly recognized two avenues: more research, better teaching. In pursuing this objective on a local, as well as national basis he made the gigantic efforts that finally broke his physical forces. To foster periodontal research he succeeded just before death to establish a research center at his own school. With his *Workshop for Teachers in Periodontology* sponsored by the American Academy of Periodontology he gave the profession definite guidance how to incorporate, to enhance and to validate the teaching of periodontology as a means to better and more comprehensive dental health service. A recent expert Committee of the World Health Organization has recognized the value of this contribution and adopted the principles therein established.

So it can be truly said that Dr. Ray's greatest contribution to periodontia was in the field of education. The influence of his strides is world-wide. Humanity is enriched by his work and life. Harold G. Ray was an example of a very fine and educated personality; self-controlled in any situation, just in every decision, rich and warm in his affections he lived up to the Golden Rule. When an intense desire to serve humanity is accompanied by an able, unpretentious, genial personality the result can mean a great man. Such was Harold G. Ray. He never can be replaced in the affection of his students and friends.

The sympathy of all is extended to his beloved wife the understanding companion and counsellor in his great strides and victories.

*Louis J. Baume,  
President SSO*

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The specialty of periodontics, the American Academy of Periodontology, and the American Board of Periodontology have suffered a great loss in the death of Harold G. Ray. His whole professional life has been dedicated to practice, pedagogy, and journalism in this field. His contributions are a monument to his efforts, and he will always be remembered in the highest esteem by his close friends and his legion of professional friends.

*Clarke E. Chamberlain, D.D.S.*

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It was with deep regret to hear of the untimely death of our colleague Dr. Harold Ray. His contributions to the field of periodontology are well-known by the dental profession. By his diligence and his organizational ability he helped raise periodontology to the high level it now enjoys. A recent example was the outstanding manner he organized and conducted the recent Workshop for Teachers of Periodontology.

His unselfish devotion to the academy and other organizations will long be remembered. The name Harold Ray will always be associated with an individual who placed his profession and friendships foremost.

*Henry M. Swenson, D.D.S.*