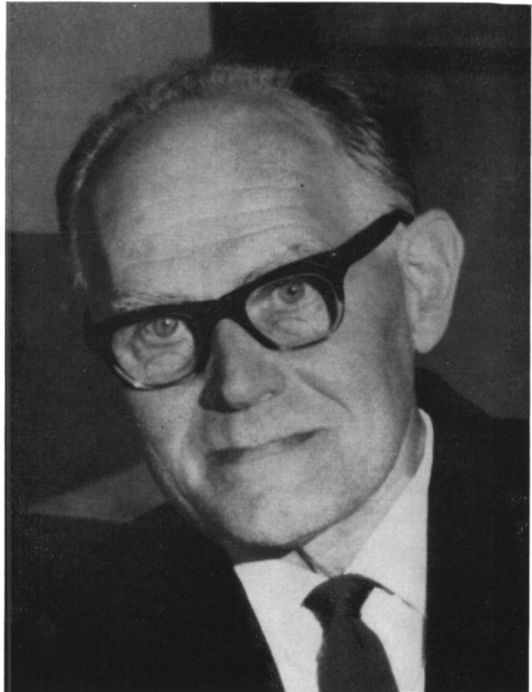


IN MEMORIAM



LIONEL SHARPLES PENROSE

11 June 1898 - 12 May 1972

Born on the threshold of our century, L.S. Penrose met with genetics in the season of the maximum development of the Mendelian school. Gifted with a peculiar mathematical genius, he found here a rich field of application of his natural talent and enriched genetics with analytic methods that were to become classic reference points. Such were, for instance, his calculations for a quantitative evaluation of mutations in man, as well as his mathematical analysis of linkage.

His interest in medical genetics was mainly focused on hereditary mental diseases. Moreover, at a time where medicine was almost entirely turned to the phenotypic aspects of pathology, he was the first to introduce the understanding of the influence of heredity on diseases.

From psychiatry, Professor Penrose then moved to cytogenetics, where remarkable signs were impressed by his research especially concerning mongolism: his book in collaboration with G.F. Smith, "Down's Anomaly" (1966), reviewed the research done in this field from 1866 to 1965 and provided much original information as well. His interest in cytogenetics represents the height of his career as a geneticist.

Going through the list of the 277 publications left by L.S. Penrose to the scientific literature, one is impressed by his intuition which would have certainly oriented him towards chronogenetics. In fact, he devoted a number of works to the influence of paternal and maternal age, or of birth order, on mongolism¹; to the relation of maternal age to placenta praevia² and to developmental anomalies³; to the problem

of anticipation in myotonic dystrophy⁴; to the relation of parental age to achondroplasia⁵ and to nondisjunction⁶, etc.

For twenty years he was the editor of the journal of the Galton Laboratory, *Annals of Eugenics*, the name of which was then changed into *Annals of Human Genetics*. Open to international collaboration, we remember his presence in all International Congresses of Human Genetics, especially the Rome one (1961), where he gave his lecture on "Chromosomes and natural selection". The present writer remembers with pleasure that Professor Penrose, together with late Professors Kemp, Franceschetti, and Kallmann, wanted, on that occasion, to dedicate to him, as the President of the Congress, a silver plate.

Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae is honored to dedicate the present issue to the memory of Lionel Sharples Penrose.

LUIGI GEDDA

Rome, 30 June 1972.

- ¹ The relative effect of paternal and maternal age in mongolism. *J. Genet.*, 27: 219, 1933.
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Paternal age in mongolism. *Lancet*, 1: 1101, 1962.
The effects of change in maternal age distribution upon the incidence of mongolism. *J. Ment. Defic. Res.*, 11: 54, 1967.
- ² Maternal age and parity in placenta praevia. *J. Obst. Gynaecol. Br. Emp.*, 46: 645, 1939.
- ³ Maternal age, order of birth and developmental abnormalities. *J. Ment. Sci.*, 85: 1141, 1939.
- ⁴ The problem of anticipation in pedigrees of dystrophia myotonica. *Ann. Eugen., Lond.*, 14: 125, 1948.
- ⁵ Parental age in achondroplasia and mongolism. *Am. J. Hum. Genet.*, 9: 167, 1957.
- ⁶ Parental age and non-disjunction. *Human Chromosomal Abnormalities* (Ed. W. M. Davidson & D. Robertson Smith) London Sharples Press, 1961.