

Joseph H. Globus: 1885–1952

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JOSEPH H. GLOBUS died suddenly on November 19, 1952. He had been associated with New York University for sixteen years, as assistant professor of neuroanatomy from 1923 to 1927 and as assistant professor of neuroanatomy and neuropathology from 1927 to 1939; he had been assistant clinical professor at Columbia University from 1937; he founded and edited the *Journal of the Mount Sinai Hospital, New York*, in 1934 and the *Journal of Neuropathology and Experimental Neurology* in 1942.

Dr. Globus served as president of the American Association of Neuropathologists, as president of the New York Neurological Society, and as chairman of the Section of Neurology and Psychiatry at the New York Academy of Medicine. Over thirty years of his professional life as neurologist and neuropathologist were devoted to Mt. Sinai Hospital. His investigations on the histogenesis of brain tumors were so profound and original that his correspondence with Harvey Cushing regarding a system of classification of brain tumors grew to voluminous proportions (to be published later) and ultimately culminated in worldwide adoption of the system he proposed.

Dr. Globus was born in Vitebsk, Russia, on November 25, 1885, the grandson of a well-known physician. At the age of 20 he emigrated to the United States where he quickly learned and mastered the English language. He received his B.A. degree from Columbia College in 1915 and his M.D. degree from Cornell University in 1917. His internship was served at Montefiore Hospital (1917–18) and was followed by training in psychiatry at Manhattan State Hospital. In World War I he served his country as a first lieutenant in the Army Medical Corps. As a Blumenthal Fellow in 1920 he went to Germany where he received further fundamental training in neuroanatomy and neuropathology under men of the Jakob and Alzheimer school. While there, he met and married Grete Gans who bore him three children.

Upon his return to the United States, Dr. Globus resumed his activities at Mt. Sinai Hospital and received the following well-merited appointments: assistant neuropathologist (1921–28); associate neuropathologist (1928–39); and neuropathologist (1939–51). After his official retirement he served as consultant neurologist and neuropathologist.

Prolonged association with Dr. Globus in research work, in his activities in neurological wards, coupled

with visits to his home, allowed me a full measure of the man as teacher, scientist, physician, and family man. As a teacher, Dr. Globus was eminently successful and highly respected. Without affectation he held the attention of his students and inspired independence and self-reliance in them. It was with this purpose in mind that his well-known textbook *Neuroanatomy*, with incompletely labeled illustrations, was written.

The carefully prepared, creative contributions of Dr. Globus on the morbid anatomy of the central nervous system number more than 100. They comprise such diverse subjects as the histogenesis of leptomeningeal and pachymeningiomatous tumors, spongioblastoma multiforme, multiple sclerosis and internal hydrocephalus, pinealoma, infundibuloma, teratoid cysts of the hypophysis, tumors affecting the optic chiasma and optic tract, amaurosis, cerebral aneurysms, massive cerebral hemorrhage, brain tumors of children, primary melanoblastosis, chorea, and the origin of the so-called round cell infiltrations in poliomyelitis and encephalitis.

As a physician Dr. Globus was efficient, practical, considerate, and sagacious. Fearlessly close to the stark realities of life, he was always optimistic and cheerful. His habits of interspersing conversation with philosophical truisms, medical anecdotes, and witty remarks endeared him to his colleagues and subordinates and engendered in them a respect for truth and ethical procedure. His kindheartedness and deeply sympathetic attitude reflected the magnanimity of his soul and accounted for the special care and consideration he graciously extended to the indigent old men and women in the neurological wards entrusted to his care. The strains on his heartstrings were many, the greatest and tenderest being the welfare and happiness of his beloved wife and cherished children.

The achievements of the scientist and physician Globus will always be a striking example of the lofty medical heights a man of foreign birth and meager financial circumstances may, through altruistic endeavor and scientific accomplishment, attain in the free democracy that is ours in the United States. Benefited by his life of self-sacrifice and service, we may assuage our bereavement in his untimely death and leave to posterity, as did Alzheimer and Cajal, the cherished memory of his manifold and ideal accomplishments in his chosen field of work.