OBITUARY

ANDRÉ J. CAVAILLON, 1887-1967

Dr André J. Cavaillon, Honorary President of the International Union against the Venereal Diseases and the Treponematoses, who was born in 1887, died in Alise Sainte Reine (France) on August 23, 1967.

Dr Cavaillon had received his medical education in Paris, qualifying in 1914. After the 1914-18 war, during which he served as Medical Officer—and in this capacity he greatly distinguished himself—he entered the Public Health Service; his career in the Service was brilliant. He was at first Assistant Director at the National Institute of Social Hygiene; then General Medical Inspector at the Ministry of Public Health, and there, in 1944, he was appointed Director General; this post he held until his retirement in 1950.

Still very active and greatly interested in socio-medical activities, he went to the South of France where he worked for a few years as Medical Officer at Cannes and at the same time as Director of the Regional Centre for Health Education of the South-East (Provence, Côte d'Azur, Corse).

During his long and active years in the Public Health Services, Dr Cavaillon did pioneering work in the field of VD control, promoting a new regulation based on epidemiological approach and contact-tracing, and re-organizing on a modern basis VD clinics throughout the country. He persistently fought the deeply-entrenched prostitution system and urged the need for new legislation.

His name is also connected with the organization of Mother and Child Welfare, tuberculosis control, and the institution, in France, of the National School of Public Health.

In the international field Dr Cavaillon acted as Consultant in the Social and Health Section of the League

of Nations; he was among those, who after the war prepared the draft constitution of WHO: he was chief of the French Delegation at the New York Conference in 1946, where WHO was officially established, and became a member of the Interim Committee until 1948.

It is largely thanks to his personal energy and enthusiasm that the International Union against the Venereal Diseases and the Treponematoses has reached its outstanding position among the Non-governmental Organizations. Deputy Secretary-General in 1925, when the Union was established, he was Secretary-General from 1927 to 1957, President from 1957 to 1959, and Honorary President till his death. In the course of all these years he succeeded in building up a very strong organization which was able to influence social opinion and secure action for the organization of modern VD control services in numerous countries. Among the achievements of the Union must be remembered: the contribution to the Brussels agreement of 1927; the international commission for control of VD among the Rhine boatmen; the publication of comparative legislation on VD throughout the world; and the reform of VD legislation in many countries.

Dr Cavaillon was an extremely brilliant man and an exceptionally great scholar; he had charm and was interested in many subjects. He leaves behind numerous friends who greatly regret his departure. His death is a loss, not merely to his own country, but to our International Union to which he had generously dedicated a great part of his work and of his life. Our sympathies go to his wife, who survives him.

N. Canaperia (President, IUVDT).
C. S. Nicol (Secretary-General, IUVDT).