Mr. J. L. Loran

OBITUARY NOTICE OF DECEASED MEMBER

Martin Enda Folan

1912-1972

PLATE XXIII

MARTIN ENDA FOLAN died suddenly at his home in his 60th year, having held the positions of Professor of Bacteriology, University College, Galway, and Bacteriologist, Regional Hospital, Galway, for about 25 years. He obtained the Honours B.Sc. in Pathology and Bacteriology, and a special scholarship, in 1935. Later in the same year he received the U.C.D. Medical Society's Senior Silver Medal. During his clinical studies, he was awarded the special prize in Medicine at the Mater Hospital, the President's Senior Gold Medal, and the Medical Society's Senior Gold Medal. He graduated in medicine in 1938 and became Assistant Pathologist to the Mater Hospital in 1939 and Lecturer in Pathology. He became Assistant Director of the Clinical Laboratory, Cork in 1942, where he obtained the M.Sc in 1945. At that time he published a number of papers on the biochemistry of blood groups as well as papers on bacteriology, on the investigation of sewage for typhoid bacilli and on the bacteriological examination of water. In 1948 he was appointed to the first Chair of Bacteriology in University College, Galway and was also Bacteriologist to the Central Hospital (later the Regional Hospital), Galway. As one of the most senior bacteriologists in the Republic he was a Founder Member of the Royal College of Pathologists. He was a member of the Grants Committee of the Conquer Cancer Campaign and of the Medical Research Council of Ireland, and a former member of the Board of Studies of the National University of Ireland.

Although his main interest was in the bacteriology of water supplies, and the National Reference Laboratory for salmonella typing was set up in his laboratory, his main contribution to academic life was the creation of the Department of Microbiology within the University. He was fond of teaching, and encouraged and trained a good many people in microbiology in his Department. The Department he created is a living memorial to his life's work.

He was a gentle and courteous man of many talents, amongst which were contributions in the amateur radio field, model engineering, marksmanship, fishing, shooting, flying and a cultivation of the arts, particularly music and painting. In the latter field he actively promoted a choir which has recently been successful in national competitions. He campaigned vigorously for the founding of a Faculty of Music in the U.C.G. and he was an early patron of Irish painters.

He is survived by his wife, Jennie, two daughters and three sons. Professor Folan will be sadly missed by his family, his colleagues and staff and many friends both in Galway and the rest of the Irish Republic to whom his sudden death came as a sad shock.

JOHN D. KENNEDY