

IN MEMORY OF PROF. BELLONI

LUGI BELLONI  
December 5, 1914 - August 13, 1989

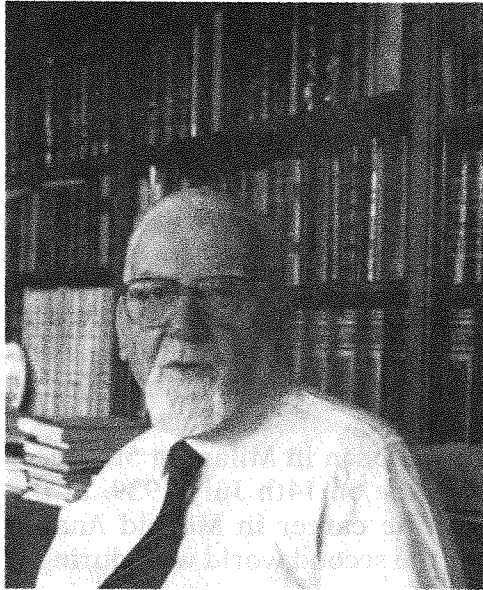
With the death of Luigi Belloni, in Varese on 13th August 1989, Italian Science has lost one of the most representative exponents of the History of Medicine in this century. He connected the History of Medicine with the general themes of the History of Science and devised a new method of research that is still very modern and promising.

Luigi Belloni was born in Milan on 5th December 1914 and graduated *cum laude* on 14th July 1939. In the same year he started his scientific career in Morbid Anatomy with Mario Chiovenda. After the second world war, during which he fought in Russia, he spent some years at the University of Geneva, where he obtained the *diploma* of Specialization in Morbid Anatomy and where he held lessons on Techniques of Autopsy. In 1948 he obtained the *Libera Docenza* in Morbid Anatomy.

Belloni's interest in the History of Medicine began in 1945 with a dissertation on Morgagni's work on Condromatosis of the joints. In the field of the History of Medicine he had scientific connections with Andrea Corsini, the director of the Museum of the History of Science in Florence, and H.E. Sigerist (Zurich), W. Artelt (Frankfurt) and J. Steudel (Bonn).

Through Corsini he established a collaboration, which he kept up till the end of his life, with the institute and the Museum of the History of Science of Florence and with the Society of History of Medical and Natural Sciences, which in 1956 changed its name into Society of the History of Medicine.

At the beginning of his studies he cultivated paleography and fundamentals of philological techniques useful to edit unpublished manuscripts.



In this period he published the treatises of Gynecology and Pediatrics by Michele Savonarola and the *Regimen Sanitatis ad Laurentium Medicum* by Antonio Benivieni.

In collaboration with Dorothy M. Schullian he translated and published the treatises of the History of Medicine by Giovanni Portelli and Gian Giacomo Bartolotti.

In 1955 he took the *Libera Docenza* in the History of Medicine and in 1965 in the History of Science. From 1957 to 1968 he was acting Professor of History of Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Milan, in which he became Full Professor in 1968 and in which he held lessons on the History of Medicine till 1985.

From 1964 to 1969 he was acting Professor of History of Science in the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy of the Univer-

sity of Milan. It was a great reward for Belloni's work to teach in a Faculty in which scientists such as Ludovico Geymonat and Felice Mondella worked.

In 1960 he founded the Institute of the History of Medicine of the University of Milan, which became a center of studies and research of excellent quality.

The studies of Belloni in the History of Microscopy and Anatomy prompted him to renew the experiments described in the ancient treatises and this method of research gained him high distinction in the world.

This method of redoing the experiments gave Belloni the full comprehension of the work of Marcello Malpighi, who was the founder of Microscopic Anatomy.

In the work of Belloni *Medicine* was the most important part of the History of Medicine. Belloni cultivated a History of Medicine making use of the archives and the laboratory, to reach a retrojection of our knowledges in the interpretation of diseases, a method difficult to follow because of its requiring very high knowledges and not fully followed today, when the more easy interest in the history of health services is growing.

This fact can be explained by the lack of interest in History in the Medical School and with the absence of scientists in this field with an interdisciplinary background.

On the whole, Belloni demonstrated great authority in the History of Medicine and in this field he achieved results of great interest.

Antonio Scala  
Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery  
University of Milan