

CORRESPONDENCE

*Istituto di Fisiologia Umana
L' Cattedra
Università di Milano
January 12th, 1977*

To the Editor

Dear Sir,

Professor A. V. Hill

Looking back to the important steps of my life, one of the most significant can certainly be identified with my first contact with Professor A. V. Hill. It was shortly after my graduation when I was granted a Rockefeller fellowship to go and work at University College, London, with A. V.: leaving the rather provincial Italian university to which I belong to drop in what it was at that time perhaps the most active place of physiological research in the world, a centre of attraction for young and old physiologists. It was certainly a striking experience. There I met a whole population of brilliant researchers guided by that fabulous A.V. that was known to me only through his papers and particularly at that time by the very appealing monograph "Muscular movement in man" that appeared shortly before and that still now, after half a century, can be considered a masterpiece of scientific writing for rigorous style, simplicity of treatment and enjoyable reading.

Certainly the life in the Laboratory, the many discussions and the work in close contact with A.V. influenced so profoundly my way of thinking that many people during my career felt this influence: one of the earliest was from our old friend and master Sir Joe Barcroft who, during a discussion of one of his propositions that was not meeting my full agreement, reproached me of being like A. V. Hill, in using too much logical and mathematical reasoning to demolish his hypothesis that, though it had some aesthetical merits, was unsustainable.

What I got most from A. V. Hill was perhaps not in the Lab but living as a guest in his country home on the Devonshire Moors at Three Corners near Plymouth (where I spent two months working at the Marine Biological Institute): I really considered it a tremendous privilege to have the chance of living well inside a typical English family (and what a family!), in continuous contact with all members of the family, from Margaret, A.V.'s very sweet and most intelligent wife, to the children with whom we had lots of fun and active enterprises. Nor can I forget how these young people woke me up in the morning to initiate the daily life with a 5-6 mile run up and down the steep hills of the moors, to be followed by a cold bath that we took in succession in a tub; I, David and last A.V., as there was no running or hot water at that time.

It is not possible to make a description of such a rich and complicated personality of A. V. Hill, but I think that his most prominent characteristics have always been his logical reasoning that led to the reduction of the problems treated to the greatest simplicity; his loyalty towards his friends and pupils and towards science and culture; his sense of humour, which is distinctive only of people who have a good philosophical spirit, selfcriticism, aesthetical and ethical sense.

With my best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

Rodolfo Margaria

11th February, 1977

61 Ebrington Street
Plymouth

Dear Sir,

As a medical adviser to a professional soccer club, I have recently come up against treatment by a chiropractor and should appreciate your views on the ethics of liaison with this profession?

It would also be of great help to myself and my colleagues if you could enlighten us as to the actual practical training that is involved in chiropractic medicine and, in particular, how this differs from osteopathy.

Yours sincerely,
(Dr.) B. W. M. Walker