

Comments on Harold E. Johns

I first became acquainted with Harold during the winter of 1947. Harold and two of his colleagues, Professors Haslam and Katz, all members of the faculty of the University of Saskatchewan, were guests of our betatron and nuclear physics group for nearly a month. They were interested in our beam collimation and dose distribution measurements for different fields, and also in the photodisintegration nuclear reaction studies. These had already resulted in nearly a dozen reaction thresholds suitable for beam energy calibration purposes from about 2 MeV up to over 20 MeV. They were a bright and friendly group and popular with our staff. Johns was particularly interested in the applications to this field and a basis of future cooperation came into being. Harold and I collaborated on a chapter on the interactions of x-rays and electrons with matter requested by Gerald Hine and Gordon Brownell for their book on Radiation Dosimetry. Harold also served on the Board of Scientific Consultants of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center for several years. His originality was expressed in many developments. His concept of tumor-air-ratio and its applications was very helpful; he designed the first teletherapy unit for cobalt-60 and initiated its use in 1951; his textbook became the medical physics "bible"; and other to be mentioned. He was asked as the unofficial dean of American medical physicists to supply a guest editorial for the Journal *Medical Physics*, which he did for the July/August issue, 1988. He received many awards, including the Order of Canada and the AAPM Coolidge Award. He was always constructive and original; time permitting I should like to mention some anecdotes.