Introduction of Dr. Lorenz E. Zimmerman on the occasion of the Friedenwald Award in Ophthalmology

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I am happy to have been asked to introduce Dr. Zimmerman on the occasion of this important award. It is fitting that we all should honor those colleagues who have made valuable contributions in the field of medicine. The present award is especially meritorious.

I think I was selected to introduce Zim because of our common love of pathology; but for a long time was not exactly sure how to proceed with the introduction. While worrying about it I came across an old Ogden Nash poem, which helped me understand how I should proceed. It is entitled, "And How Keen Was The Vision of Sir Launfal?"†

Man's earliest pastime, I suppose, Was to play with his fingers and his toes. Then later, wearied of himself, He devised the monster and the elf, Enlivening his existence drab With Blunderbore and Puck and Mab. A modern man, in modern Maryland, I boast my private gate to fairyland, My kaleidoscope, my cornucopia, My own philosopher's stone, myopia. Except when rationalized by lenses, My world is not what other men's is; Unless I have my glasses on, The postman is a leprechaun,

I can wish on either of two new moons, Billboards are graven with mystic runes, Shirts hung to dry are ragtag gypsies, Mud puddles loom like Mississipsies, And billiard balls resemble plums, And street lamps are chrysanthemums.

If my vision were twenty-twenty, I should miss miracles a-plenty.

With something less than twenty-twenty, I now felt confident of my approach to this introduction. I thought for a long time about what to say. Every idea turned to ashes, for you all know him and his accomplishments as well as I do. Then I thought, "If I can't say anything good about him, what about something bad?" I did not know anything bad, but did find out a few things from his friends, and even his wife. Some are rather trivial and not worth discussing, but two are worth spreading on the record. One is that he has a bad habit of going to sleep just as soon as dinner is over, especially on a cold winter night, for one purpose only—to get out of doing the dishes. The other has to do with his entering into a "life's work" in ophthalmic pathology. It seems that about the time Hellie Wilder (Helenor Campbell Foerster) retired, Zim was hanging around the AFIP and became entangled with some of the people in the ophthalmologic group. They were avid tennis players, and he soon found he could beat some with regularity. Soon after this he took over the job as

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Chief of the Ophthalmic Pathology Branch, and Registrar, Registry of Ophthalmic Pathology. Hellie Foerster tells me the general pathologists at the AFIP hated to see him leave to take over the Ophthalmic Pathology Branch. You can imagine the problem he faced in making this decision, but sic semper tennis.

In a way this is an anniversary, for it commemorates a period of almost ten years in ophthalmic pathology for Zim. During this time he has listened to, read, and learned most of the ophthalmologic lingo. At the same time he has made valuable contributions to the ophthalmic pathology literature, and gained the respect of all his colleagues. He has a special position in the hearts of all of us working in ophthalmic pathology, and has been a great force in the development of this specialty in various institutions in the country. His contributions to the annual meetings of the Verhoeff Eye Pathology Society have always been outstanding.

It is lucky for all of us that Zim decided to go into ophthalmic pathology, for he has created an atmosphere in his department that is attractive to students, and his department has the respect of most general pathologists. Not only do his students come to learn, but almost without exception they develop a research project which eventually leads to a worthwhile contribution. I have been amazed at the loyalty with which the younger ophthalmic pathologists return each year to teach and carry out additional work at the AFIP. Zim also gives a great deal to the teaching programs of national and international groups and organizations. The many courses on ophthalmic pathology that he and his colleagues offer in various parts of the country are well attended and greatly appreciated, especially by residents who are preparing for American Board Examinations.

A review of Zim's publications is interesting. The residents at this meeting should note that his first 5 papers were published while he was still a resident. Of special interest to me is that he published 18 papers before he came into ophthalmology in 1955, and there are 92 contributions after this period. Many of the first 18 papers were concerned with problems of infectious diseases, especially fungal infections. His ophthalmologic studies are well known, but for a proper appraisal of his work I recommend a review of his bibliography. Some of his contributions you will not have been aware of since they are chapters in texts not ordinarily encountered by ophthalmologists. One you are aware of is the AFIP and Academy Atlas and Textbook of Ophthalmic Pathology. Without Zim's contribution, this text could never have achieved its present value. He spent a month in California working on it during its final stages (interspersed with a little tennis) and his work on the illustrations was superb. Bill Spencer and I wonder what would have happened if he had spent two months instead of one.

After such a recent bout with Ogden Nash, I thought this introduction should be terminated with a fitting poem:

Zim and His Whims
Cerulean pools of polysaccharide
Zim found in the eye with greatest pride,
The trabeculas, ciliary body, iris, and retina
Revealed all to his stains without loss of patina.
The glaucoma from overripe lenses
Was found to be new in our kenses,
Phakolytic it was called
The name concerned all,
But it saved many eyes
Without much surprise
To those who believed in it all.
Groenouw and Biber, Haab and Dimmer,
Rones, DeBuen, Walsh and Adler,
Added new facts on eye and appendages
Abetted by Zim and his newer percentages.
Silverstein, his sensitive rabbits
Fine, his ultrathin habits,
Brought new facts to bear
On the eye here and there.
Tumors o'er all
Brought the greatest windfall,
Paul and her statistics
Boniuk, his linguistics,
Changed much nosology
To help our pathology,
And my story is done
About an exceptional one.