

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOPER LECTURE

ROBERT L. KAISER

National Center for Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia

Fred Soper dedicated his life to the eradication of disease. Soper's legendary efforts in the battle against yellow fever and his leadership of the successful campaigns to eradicate *Anopheles gambiae* from Brazil and later from Egypt are emblazoned on the records of public health achievements of the 20th century. In *Ventures in World Health, the Memoirs of Fred L. Soper*, the medical historian John Duffy noted, "Fred Soper can best be described as a secular medical

was rekindled and he produced several key publications, framing a challenge to the public health establishment. It was evident, however, that the effort required to launch such an undertaking was not consonant with the duties of a CDC Deputy Director, so when Bill Foege suggested that Global 2000 of the Carter Presidential Center lead a program to eradicate Guinea worm, Don accepted a position as Senior Consultant. Since 1987, he has thrown his full energy into the development of the global eradication effort

was determined to do all in his power to eliminate its cause. In many respects he epitomizes the best of those American qualities of practicality, forthrightness, moral certainty, and an im-

He is a member of numerous advisory boards and holds several academic appointments. His book, *Princes and Peasants: Smallpox in History*, published in 1984, was nominated for a Pulitzer