Death claimed Oskar Vogt on July 31, 1959, about ten months after my seeing him for the last time in Neustadt, September, 1958. Although his deteriorating condition had become quite apparent, Oskar had tried to hide his pain and discomfort by insisting on secluded privacy, allegedly to concentrate on scientific problems (*H.S.). At the beginning of July, however, he finally consented to a simple physical examination by Dr. Heinz Schulze, who could feel a hard, egg-sized mass in his abdomen. Telling Oskar immediately about this finding, Schulze got the impression that the latter must have been aware of its presence for some time, and of its meaning with regard to the possibility of malignancy. Stressing his limited clinical expertise, H.S. suggested a thorough examination at one of the University Clinics in Freiburg. Oskar grudgingly consented, and after a few days he was admitted to the surgical clinic of Freiburg University. He died there within a few weeks, after exploration revealed an inoperable cancer.

The funeral services, held in Freiburg, were attended by notables from both West and East Germany, and by a number of his friends, mostly from the academic world. Marguerite was unable to come; however, Marthe arrived from Cambridge, with the main intention of taking care of her distraught mother, and to help settling matters related to the Vogts’ involvement in the ownership of the Institute. Following the cremation, Oskar’s ashes were buried at the Freiburg cemetery under a simple plaque bearing his name.*

In spite of pain and depression due to the terminal illness and death of Oskar, on whom her whole life was centered, Cécile decided to postpone her departure for Cambridge in order to settle all the affairs related to the Vogts’ long stay in Neustadt, and to familiarize Oskar’s successor, Prof. Adolf Hopf, with all matters related to the Institute which the Vogts had run as their own for over 20 years.

In the time period between my last visit to Neustadt and Oskar’s death, according to H.S.’s observations, both Vogts started to face the reality of irrevocably approaching the end of their life’s endeavors. This affected some changes in their previously well-balanced emotional life.

Cécile in particular showed rapid mood fluctuations, and was prone to reveal to H.S., whom she trusted, some of her concerns and fears. Her strong pride in being French surfaced when, shortly after Heinz’s arrival, she found out about his great interest in French culture. She encouraged him and secured Oskar’s approval for Schulze’s few trips with his wife to Alsace, Paris and the Loire Valley, which for the couple from East Ger-

* This grave does not exist anymore.
many was a reward beyond any dreams. In another expression of trust towards H.S., Cécile took him confidentially to the room which contained a well-protected, locked cabinet. From this she produced a folder of slides with the words: “I am showing you Lenin’s brain”. Utterly startled, Heinz had only a few minutes to examine the slides under a microscope. He does remember seeing clearly very extensive areas of softening, affecting both the gray and the white matter. It should be noted that Schulze’s recollection directly contradicts statements from the Institut Mozga that none of Lenin’s brain slides had ever left Moscow.

Cécile’s readiness to show Lenin’s brain slides to H.S. differed from Oskar’s attitude, who in the last years of his life had maintained silence in regard to Lenin’s brain and had never mentioned to Heinz Schulze the presence of any of Lenin’s slides at the Neustadt Institute. However, H.S. remembers that Oskar on a few occasions, referred to his address to the Soviet rulers in the Pantheon Hall, in 1927, with some irony: “Naturally, I had to stress strongly a possible connection of the large neurons in the third layer of the cortex with the associative capabilities of Lenin to satisfy the expectations of the attending Commissar Semashko”, adding with a mischievous smile: “On his report to the Politbureau depended the support for our (Moscow) Institute”.

Oskar’s death was clearly a devastating blow for Cécile. The loss of her emotional stability was manifested in bouts of pessimism and despair. Until his return to Berlin in December 1959, Cécile turned frequently to Schulze for his advise in making various difficult decisions, some concerning the Institute. This put Schulze in the awkward position of trying to console her, yet without becoming involved in matters for which he lacked proper judgment.

In 1960, after settling her affairs, and providing as much assistance as she could to Oskar’s successor, Adolf Hopf, she departed with Marthe for Cambridge, England, where, on May 4th, 1962, she died.

To complete the tale about the Vogts, it might be of interest to report briefly on the fate of some of their important collaborators, whom I met and was associated with in Neustadt. I will start with Jerzy (George) Olszewski, the man who had been closest to me.

Upon our arrival at the Montreal Neurological Institute (M.N.I.), George was assigned to the Laboratory of Neuroanatomy under Francis McNaughton, Chief of Neurology, whereas I was placed in the Laboratory of Neuropathology, under William Cone, a neurosurgeon and close associate of Wilder Penfield.

After 3 years, working primarily with metallic impregnation methods for the study of brain tumors, I felt strongly that I needed to get a broader background, particularly in general pathology. I was fortunate to be accepted by Professor G. Lyman Duff as a fellow at the Pathological Institute of McGill University, located next-door to the M.N.I. It was the right decision, for after 3 years at the Pathological Institute I received, with the generous support of professor Duff, the Allan Blair research fellowship from the Canadian Cancer Society, allowing me to spend 2 years in various brain