IN MEMORIAM

VERNON KENT DRENNAN
1911-1958

V. K. Drennan, consultant orthopaedic surgeon to the Clwyd and Deeside Hospital area, died at the Northern Hospital, Liverpool, on December 19, 1958, at the age of forty-seven.

Born in Liverpool, he was educated at the Liverpool Collegiate School, studied medicine at Liverpool University, graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1935, and, after holding resident posts at the Stanley and Walton Hospitals, entered the School Medical Service. In July 1939 he joined the Territorial Army as regimental medical officer to an anti-tank regiment and served in Malaya, India and Burma, first as surgeon to a casualty clearing station and later as surgical specialist in charge of a mobile surgical unit. After the war he was appointed Resident Surgical Officer at Walton Hospital, Liverpool, and in 1948 he obtained the F.R.C.S. (Edinburgh). He was then attracted to orthopaedic surgery and was appointed orthopaedic registrar at Bootle Hospital. He obtained his M.Ch.(Orth.) in 1950 and in 1951 was appointed to the post of consultant orthopaedic surgeon to the Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Group. In 1947 Drennan joined the 8th (Liverpool) General Hospital, R.A.M.C.T.A. At first he was surgical specialist and later was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in charge of the surgical division. In 1955 he was further promoted to the rank of Colonel in command of the hospital and in 1957 he was awarded the T.D.

All those who knew Drennan will particularly remember his outstanding attributes—cheerfulness, vitality, artistry and courage. His cheerful, smiling, chubby countenance and his wide scope of invigorating interests made him welcome in any company and brought him many friends in all walks of life. His vitality was remarkable; he carried out his duties as consultant virtually without trained assistance yet attended to his many commitments to the territorial army with zeal, and still found time to become an expert angler. Drennan was passionately fond of music and was an accomplished pianist. His artistry, however, was not a thing of the spirit only but was also combined with an unusual degree of manual skill revealed in the products he designed and created in his own workshop, and which ranged from household furniture to electronic equipment, and manifest also in the operation theatre. His courage was a source of repeated wonder to his friends. For the last three years he had been aware of the fatal nature of his illness, yet this only seemed to stimulate him to greater activity. Towards the end his waning strength could be restored only by repeated blood transfusions. It was with extreme reluctance that he would agree to remain overnight in the hospital to receive these transfusions, and his only complaints were of the interruption to his activities which these visits involved. His loss will be deeply felt by very many friends and grateful patients.

He leaves a widow and two children to whom our sincerest sympathies are extended.

G. E. T.