When R. J. W. Withers died suddenly on May 15 in Belfast, Northern Ireland lost its founder, architect and builder of orthopaedic surgery. He was its first "pure" orthopaedic surgeon. Through his energy, enthusiasm and organising ability there gradually developed a service which now has ten consultant surgeons and some hundreds of orthopaedic beds. In the early days of this development he was constantly encouraged by the late Sir Samuel Irwin.

Jimmy Withers, as he was known to all, was a tremendously hard worker, with an amazing memory and an alert mind, which he sharpened by the diligent study of a very wide spectrum of subjects. He would not tolerate hypocrisy and he abhorred what he called "pseudo-science." The peculiar faculty of inspiring loyalty and devotion to duty was inherent in him, so that the essence of leadership—so difficult to define, but so obvious when it occurs—was an overwhelming facet of his personality. He was an excellent teacher, whose help and guidance have assisted not only his orthopaedic colleagues, but students both undergraduate and postgraduate. There was not the slightest trace of selfishness in the generous and kind way he treated his junior colleagues.

As well as being the senior orthopaedic surgeon in Ulster he was Lecturer in Orthopaedic Surgery at Queen's University, Belfast. He had a deep love for his old University, Queen's, where he qualified with First Class Honours in 1930. Later he obtained the Gold Medal with
the M.D. and High Commendation with the M.Ch. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1934. He was a Fellow of the British Orthopaedic Association and a member of many orthopaedic societies, and he was also a Surgical Traveller and a member of the James IV Association of Surgeons. Such was his enthusiasm for orthopaedics that he was the prime mover in founding the Irish Orthopaedic Club, which now has a flourishing membership of nearly thirty orthopaedic surgeons from all parts of Ireland. Like all Irishmen he had more than a streak of idealism and he visualised the future of this Club in the rosiest of terms, maintaining at the same time a close, almost avuncular, interest in its members. Travelling was one of his joys, and he was a fluent French and German speaker. Outdoor sports were his hobby. He won his rugby blue at Queen's and remained keenly interested in the game. In later years, when he stopped working an eight-day week, he played golf and looked forward to his weekly match.

The foregoing does not give any real impression of Jimmy Withers. He was a man who enjoyed life, loved meeting people and revelled in listening to, and above all, telling stories. To use an Irish expression, he was "the best of good crack." This aspect of his character was, nevertheless, only an obvious and often deceptive one—like the surface of an iceberg—because under the surface there was a mind with the greatest profundity of knowledge, known to and appreciated only by his closest friends. It is almost impossible to realise that his infectious laugh has now been silenced, and that his bustling activity has been stilled. His gay companionship will be missed most of all by his wife and three daughters. R. I. W.

NORMAN STANNUSS GUNNING
1895-1964

Norman Stannus Gunning died on July 18, 1964. He was born in Renmark, South Australia, on December 13, 1895. He spent his youth in Maitland, South Australia, where he became friendly with Lionel Betts who at that time was in general practice in that town. This friendship was later to become an important factor in the development of Norman Gunning’s career.

After leaving school he became an apprentice blacksmith and wheelwright and he did this work for a few years until he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces for Overseas Service in 1916. He served in France with the 43rd Battalion as an infantryman and signaller, being discharged at the end of the war. He had always been interested in the practice of medicine and, upon his discharge, decided to study medicine. He had first to do preliminary studies to reach matriculation stage, which he did, and he finally graduated in Adelaide in 1926. Gunning was a very good student and never had any trouble in passing examinations. After graduation he carried on general practice for about six years. However, his interest always lay in surgery, particularly in orthopaedic surgery, and in 1933 he gave up general practice and went to the United Kingdom for postgraduate study. He
gained his Fellowship in Edinburgh and did the M.Ch.Orth. course in Liverpool, obtaining this degree in 1934. Later, in 1948, he was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons by examination in orthopaedic surgery.

After his return from England he practised orthopaedic surgery. He held positions at both the Adelaide Children's Hospital and the Royal Adelaide Hospital and carried on a large consultant practice. He was particularly outstanding in his speciality. In addition to a wide knowledge and experience, he possessed very good judgement, and as a surgeon was meticulous in every detail. He was interested in all facets of orthopaedics, but perhaps his greatest interest lay in the correction of foot deformities in adults and in the study of low back pain and sciatica. In this latter he was inclined to be conservative in his approach, but did not hesitate to perform surgery when he considered that it was indicated. He presented a number of original papers and contributed to the discussions at the annual meetings of the Australian Orthopaedic Association, which he rarely missed.

Norman Gunning served in both world wars. In 1941 and 1942 he was Commanding Officer of the 3rd Field Ambulance which served in New Guinea. After returning from New Guinea he continued to work as an orthopaedic surgeon in the Repatriation Hospital for a number of years. Many ex-servicemen are grateful for his skilled care and consideration.

He possessed an unusual personality which made him extremely popular with his colleagues and friends. His life was devoted to his work and his family. Of his three talented daughters, the eldest graduated in medicine, topping her final year, and now practises as a specialist anaesthetist in Adelaide. To his devoted wife, Muriel, and his three daughters, we offer our deepest sympathy in their loss.

E. F. W.

CARLO MARINO-ZUCO
1893–1965

Carlo Marino-Zuco was born in Rome in 1893. After graduating in medicine and surgery at Rome medical school in 1918 he passed through all the ranks of a university career until his appointment in 1940 as Professor and head of the department of orthopaedics and traumatology of the Medical School, University of Rome. He continued in this post till 1963 when he retired, leaving the direction of the Institute to his pupil, Professor Giorgio Monticelli.

During his long period in the directorship of the Institute he developed and enlarged all the services of the hospital, making of it one of the first world centres of orthopaedics, traumatology and rehabilitation. His scientific activity is reflected in hundreds of personal papers and in thousands contributed by his pupils. Many works describe original therapeutic techniques now known and appreciated all over the world.

Professor Marino-Zuco was a member and one of the moving forces behind a number of important scientific societies dealing with the field of his interest, including the International College of Surgeons, and Italian Society of
Orthopaedics and Traumatology, and la Société Internationale de Chirurgie Orthopédique et Traumatologique.

The studies and researches of Professor Marino-Zuco have focused a number of the most peculiar problems of orthopaedics and traumatology.

One of the subjects to which he devoted special interest and research was the pathogenesis and treatment of scoliosis. His methods of non-operative and of operative correction of the scoliotic spine progressively improved and has been successfully applied to hundreds of patients. He also introduced new therapeutic techniques in the orthopaedic and rehabilitative treatment of residual paralysis for poliomyelitis. Another special contribution was in lengthening of the femur: his technique represents a fundamental achievement in the management of such patients.

Other special interests included the treatment of congenital dislocation of the hip, and screw fixation for fractures of the neck of the femur, introduced in 1938 and used since then in about a thousand patients.

Marino-Zuco also interested himself in medico-social problems such as road accidents and rehabilitation. He sponsored the foundation of the Italian Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, and in 1960 was appointed as the Society’s national secretary for Italy. His teaching activity attained a very high degree with the organisation and foundation of two postgraduate schools, one in orthopaedics and traumatology and one in physiotherapy and rehabilitation. Thus his principles live on in the work of his pupils.

G. M.