IN MEMORIAM

BRYAN TOBYN KEON-COHEN
1903–1974

Bryan Tobyn Keon-Cohen was born on June 1, 1903, and died on February 24, 1974, after a long illness. A member of a distinguished legal family, Bryan received his earlier education at Scotch College, then in East Melbourne, and twice rowed bow in the Head of the River crew. His rowing successes followed him to the Melbourne University, where he stroked Trinity to victory in 1926 and found a seat in the University Eight on two occasions. In spite of these diversions he graduated with first class honours in 1927.

Bryan was then appointed as a resident medical officer to the Royal Melbourne Hospital, the institution to which he gave his utmost energy and complete loyalty during his professional life. Here he fell under the eye of Sir Alan Newton, senior surgeon, who was to become his friend and mentor. After two years of residence, he gained the Beane Scholarship in Pathology and spent a year in the Pathology School before embarking on his specialist training in England.

Having gained the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, Bryan soon moved to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital at Oswestry to begin his career in orthopaedics. There he met his future wife, Jessie Firth. The influence of those great men on the visiting staff—Platt, Naughton Dunn and Watson-Jones, to mention but a few—fell on fertile ground, and in due course Bryan became the Resident Surgical Officer.

In 1938 he returned to Melbourne to set up his orthopaedic practice and was appointed assistant to Charles Littlejohn, orthopaedic surgeon at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. But this venture was short-lived. Early in 1940 he joined the Australian Forces and was attached as specialist orthopaedic surgeon to the 2/7th Australian General Hospital, with which he served in the Western Desert, Palestine, and eventually New Guinea. The end of the war soon found Charles Littlejohn ready to retire from the Royal Melbourne Hospital and Bryan succeeded him in 1948, when he was also appointed to the Royal Women's Hospital.

The rapidly growing Royal Australasian College of Surgeons attracted Bryan's keen interest. In 1950 he was elected to the Court of Examiners and in 1959 to the Council; he became Censor-in-Chief for two years and then Vice-president in 1969.

Although not a foundation member of the Australian Orthopaedic Association he was a very early member, and apart from the war years never missed a meeting. He was President in 1963, but eclipsed his previous efforts for the Association in 1970 when his delivery of the third R. I. Harris Memorial Lecture at the Combined Meeting in Sydney received a standing ovation. Bryan's true worth was realised abroad when he was elected an Honorary Fellow

In 1968 it became obvious to Bryan that he was not well. In spite of this he carried on his busy practice and ordinary commitments until he was forced to his bed in July 1972. During his long illness all those who came in contact with him were humbled by his tremendous courage and ability to lift himself above his unfortunate condition.

Although one cannot say that Bryan Keon-Cohen could put his name to a new operation or procedure, his great contribution to orthopaedics in particular and to surgery in general was his constant demand for absolute excellence, integrity and honesty in all matters pertaining to standards of training and practice. He was well loved by his fellows and is deeply missed in orthopaedic circles in Australia. He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

W. E. S.
J. C.

ABDEL HAY EL-SHARKAWY

1911–1973

Professor Abdel Hay El-Sharkawy died suddenly on December 5, 1973, at the age of sixty-two.

He graduated from Cairo University in 1933. He obtained the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1940, and became a member of the staff of the Orthopaedic Department of Kasr El-Aini Hospital, Cairo University. He was appointed Chairman of the Orthopaedic Department in 1957, when he established the Traumatology Department in Kasr El-Aini Hospital. He was elected President of the Egyptian Orthopaedic Society in the years 1971–72.

Professor Sharkawy was a clear teacher. He taught the basic principles of orthopaedics, laying stress on the importance of good clinical examination. His special interests were related to club foot, internal derangement of the knee and injuries of the elbow in children. In the management of cases his judgement was well balanced between conservative and operative methods.

We have lost a leading orthopaedic surgeon and a sincere friend. Our deep sympathy goes to his widow and three daughters.

K. Z.