IN MEMORIAM

NEVILLE HOWARD MORGAN
1911–1973

It is sad to report the death of a much loved and esteemed friend and colleague. "Cobber" Morgan died in Sydney on December 5, 1973. He was born in Brisbane in 1911, the son of Dr T. Howard Morgan, who was surgeon to the Brisbane General Hospital. He was dux of his school, won an open scholarship to the University of Queensland and completed his medical training at Sydney University, graduating in 1935. He was a very good tennis player, cricketer and rifle shot.

Morgan was in England at the outbreak of war and enlisted there in the Australian Imperial Forces. He was posted to the Middle East, where he suffered a most serious injury when accidentally shot in the abdomen. Having recovered from this set-back he served in a field ambulance at El Alamein in the Western Desert. Later he was transferred to the Pacific theatre and commanded the 2/12 Australian Field Ambulance. At the cessation of hostilities he was the first man into Kuching to supervise the care of prisoners of war from that notorious camp. For his services he was awarded the honour of Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

After the war he returned to England, obtained the M.Ch.(Orth.) degree at Liverpool in 1947 and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons the following year. He was a member of the Derbyshire Orthopaedic and Accident Service for two years and then returned to Australia. He was then appointed to the orthopaedic staff at the Royal Prince Albert Hospital in Sydney where his work was centred until his retirement.

In 1955 he married Roslyn Elizabeth Martin and for the next eighteen years they shared a full, happy and rewarding life. However, the later years were clouded when symptoms of Parkinson's disease developed. During this time he carried on his duties cheerfully and steadfastly, supported by his devoted wife, and earned the admiration of all his colleagues. As if this were not enough, during the last two years a series of further serious illnesses taxed his endurance to the utmost, but his courage never failed. His passing has left a vacuum among his many friends.

W. S. L. S.

ALUN IOWERTH RYDDERCH
1918–1974

Alun Rhydderch was undoubtedly of Welsh descent, but he was always known as Rusty Ruddock. He died in Sydney on March 7, 1974, after a tragic illness which struck him down at the height of his surgical career.
Rhydderch was born in Dronfield near Derby in England in 1918, but came with his parents to Australia at the age of eight. He went to Sydney Grammar School where he was dux in 1935. He then proceeded to study medicine at the University of Sydney. After two years in residence at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital he joined the Australian Army Medical Corps and was in a field ambulance with the 9th Division at the Borneo landing. As soon as the war was over he set his mind on orthopaedic surgery, and after two years in a country town went to England for postgraduate study. He was at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital from 1949 to 1951 and became Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in May 1951. He then returned to Sydney and took a position in the Department of Orthopaedics at Sydney Hospital, where he remained all his life and was Senior Orthopaedic Surgeon and Clinical Lecturer in Orthopaedics in his later years.

Rhydderch developed an interest in the spine when in England, and this never left him. In 1957 he met Cloward in Honolulu and immediately introduced to Sydney the technique of anterior cervical fusion. Two years later he went to San Francisco to see the work of Paul Harmon, and he had great hopes that an anterior fusion would prove as successful in the lumbar spine as it was in the cervical spine. In later years, although he continued to supervise a large department in a teaching hospital, his private work and his writings were concentrated on various aspects of spinal surgery.

He was a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and an active member of the Australian Orthopaedic Association, serving on the executive committee and as Editorial Secretary from 1959 to 1962. Throughout his life he maintained a youthful enthusiasm for his work and recreations. Seldom has a passing brought such sadness to the orthopaedic community in Sydney and those associated with it. His widow, a daughter and a son have shared with him the great dignity and courage he showed during his fatal illness.

H. C. B.