IN MEMORIAM

HENRY WALDEN FITZGERALD
1903-1974

Henry Walden Fitzgerald, who recently died in Dunedin, New Zealand, graduated from the Otago Medical School in 1925. He served as a house surgeon at Dunedin Hospital and subsequently as a resident at the Salford Royal Infirmary, Manchester, and at the Liverpool Maternity Hospital. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1928.

He returned to New Zealand in 1930 and joined the honorary staff of Dunedin Hospital as an assistant in the orthopaedic department, where he began an association with the late Renfrew White which had a profound effect on his subsequent career. From 1940 to 1944 he served in the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force in the Middle East as an orthopaedic specialist, rose to the rank of major and was mentioned in despatches.

With this background of knowledge and experience Walden Fitzgerald pursued his main goal—the establishment of a strong department of orthopaedic surgery in the Dunedin Hospitals and the University of Otago. He was in a unique position to serve the causes that he loved so dearly—those of the severely crippled, the amputee and the disabled ex-serviceman. He fostered the careers of all the young men with whom he had been associated and was a ready source of wise counsel.

A close family man, he gained strength and resilience from them in his practice. He was a gentleman in the widest sense of the word, with impeccable taste for the occasion. As a doctor he showed superbly the art of the doctor-and-patient relationship. That he was an Otago man there could be no doubt, and he gave practically his whole life to the province. His colleagues extend their sympathy to his wife, son and daughter.

A. J. A.

GEORGE WILLIAM GOWER
1887-1974

A last link with the early days of orthopaedics in New Zealand was severed recently with the death in Hamilton of Dr George Gower at the age of eighty-seven. Dr Gower’s association with orthopaedic surgery began during the 1914-18 war when he was one of a group of serving medical officers selected to study orthopaedics under the guidance of Sir Robert Jones. On returning to New Zealand in 1919 he joined the staff of the Christchurch Military Hospital but shortly afterwards was appointed as Medical Superintendent of the Waikato Hospital, a position he held for the next nine years. Dr Gower then resigned to take up an extensive private surgical practice in Hamilton but never lost his early interest in orthopaedics.

At the outbreak of the second world war Dr Gower was appointed to command the 3rd New Zealand General Hospital with the rank of colonel. He remained in command of this hospital throughout its various moves from New Zealand to Egypt, Syria, the Western Desert and finally Italy, until in 1945 he was promoted to the position of Director of Medical Services to the 2nd Expeditionary Force with the rank of brigadier. In 1968 the New Zealand Orthopaedic Association elected Dr Gower to Honorary Membership, a tribute which he greatly appreciated.

Dr Gower was a man of many parts. He was a talented musician and in his younger days a considerable athlete. During his long life in Hamilton he took an active part on various local bodies. He lost his wife some ten years ago but leaves a daughter and a son who is a general practitioner.

B. H.