GEOFFREY PLATT
1911–1974

Geoffrey Platt died peacefully at Stoke Mandeville Hospital on August 5, 1974, at the age of sixty-three. After several years of declining health he retired in 1972 from being a much admired and loved consultant orthopaedic surgeon of the Aylesbury group of hospitals. He was also an associate orthopaedic surgeon of the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford.

A Lancastrian by birth, Platt was the son of a well known Lancashire architect and grandson of a general practitioner of the area. He was educated at the University School, Southport, graduated in 1936 from Liverpool University, and obtained his M.Ch.(Orth.) degree in 1940. In 1941 he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and served as a specialist in general and orthopaedic surgery in Palestine, Syria, Egypt and Libya. During this period he commanded two orthopaedic centres in the Middle East.

On demobilisation he was appointed orthopaedic surgeon to the Aylesbury Hospitals. He was one of five peripheral surgeons selected to build up the Accident Services proposed by the late Gaythorne Girdlestone, to whose initial astute planning the success of the present much enlarged regional service is largely due.

Platt developed his shield-type arthroplasty of the knee from 1950 onwards. This was a milestone in orthopaedic surgery, and it is quite certain that he would have progressed much further in this direction but for his failing health. The quietness, simplicity and generous good nature of Geoffrey will always be remembered. Children would walk up to him quite spontaneously and his way with them was a joy to watch. Our sympathies go out to his wife Sybil, who nursed him devotedly over the last two difficult years.

G. J. W.

TREFOR LLEWELLYN BOWEN
1932–1974

Trefor Bowen died on July 2, 1974, at the early age of forty-two after a distressing illness of some months’ duration. Born at Newport, Monmouthshire, he attended schools in the Principality before entering King’s College, London, and King’s College Hospital Medical School. He graduated in 1955 and after the usual resident appointments worked in the orthopaedic department of King’s College Hospital. He trained in general surgery at St Mary Abbots Hospital and became F.R.C.S. in 1963. While on National Service as a Flight-Lieutenant in the Medical Branch of the Royal Air Force he was stationed in Norfolk, and maintained his interest in orthopaedics with an appointment as clinical assistant to Mr Arthur King at the King’s Lynn and Wisbech Hospital. He continued his training at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, ending with a temporary appointment as lecturer in the Institute of Orthopaedics.

In 1969 he was appointed consultant orthopaedic surgeon to Queen Mary’s Hospital for Children, Carshalton and to St James’ Hospital, Balham, and he rapidly established a reputation for hand surgery in children and adults. This led to an appointment as honorary consultant at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, where he was responsible for a hand clinic.

At Carshalton he developed a major interest in medical engineering and after much hard work his efforts were crowned with the opening of a Medical Engineering Research Unit, to which his name has now been given. He was also involved with the establishment and organisation of the St George’s and South-west Thames Regional Orthopaedic Training Scheme. In 1973 he was elected a member and archivist of the British Society for the Surgery of the Hand, and shortly before his death, a Fellow of the British Orthopaedic Association.

Trefor Bowen was perhaps best known for his great interest and expertise in medical heraldry. The talks he gave on this subject were always delivered in humorous and erudite style, as well as being illustrated with most beautiful photographs and drawings. Until the last few hours he was working hard on a book which no doubt would have become a classic.

He accepted the diagnosis of his final illness with characteristic stoicism, being grateful for the possibility that modern methods of treatment might effect a permanent cure, and throughout the final months he displayed