GEORFREY 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 ILEWELLYN 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...
a fortitude tempered by natural good humour that will never be forgotten by his friends and colleagues. His early death leaves a substantial gap in the ranks of younger orthopaedic surgeons with a special interest in children or in medical engineering. During his life he made important contributions to the branches of orthopaedics and heraldry in which he was particularly interested. These, and the Medical Engineering Research Unit at Carshalton, will remain as a permanent memorial to a very good doctor.

Our sympathy rests with his wife and three young children. 

G. F. W.

**HANS DEBRUNNER**

1889–1974

Hans Debrunner, formerly professor of orthopaedics in the University of Basle, died on April 21, 1974, at his home in Zollikon, near Zürich, after a short illness. Quite apart from his dedication to his patients, his careful work as a scientist and zeal as an academic teacher, Debrunner was outstanding in many other ways. He was, above all, a very kind and lovable person to all who sought his help, and he had many friends far beyond the boundaries of Switzerland.

The son of a gynaecologist and obstetrician in the market town of Frauenfeld in Switzerland, Debrunner experienced a very happy childhood. The rich countryside bordering the wide Lake of Constance and the Rhine, and his father's work there, as he often said, the main influences on those formative years. After passing his final medical examinations at the University of Zürich he went to Berlin in 1915 with the intention of specialising in paediatrics. Here he met Hermann Gocht, the professor of orthopaedics, who was then struggling to create a properly recognised clinic. The two men understood each other so well that Gocht became the teacher he was to venerate all his life and orthopaedics became his profession. In spite of the effects of the first world war, and in many ways also due to the experience gained from them, orthopaedics developed in those years by leaps and bounds.

After nine years of work with Gocht, Debrunner returned to Zürich in 1924 and set up in private practice with immediate success. Moreover, he established an orthopaedic polyclinic in the surgical department of the University Hospital under Professor Clairmont. In 1941 he helped to found the Swiss Orthopaedic Society, of which he was later the president from 1952 to 1955. In 1948 he was appointed to the newly created chair of orthopaedics in the University of Basle. In spite of this heavy charge he continued to work for his patients and colleagues in Zürich and still found time to pursue his scientific studies. He published more than 160 carefully constructed papers on various orthopaedic subjects, made many contributions to the German *Handbuch der Orthopädie*, and wrote several monographs, the best known of which is probably *Der angeborene Klumpfuss* (congenital club foot). From 1963 to 1968 he represented Switzerland as a Corresponding Editor of this Journal. After retiring from Basle, Debrunner continued to work as a consultant, highly esteemed by all those who sought his help, till his last sudden illness.

Although deeply dedicated to his profession, Debrunner was much too evenly balanced to be possessed by it. The happiness of his childhood years continued and was ever present and quite infectious to those who enjoyed his warm hospitality. He had a great love the arts—painting, sculpture, music and literature, both classical and modern—and he himself was a master in the art of speaking and writing, this in several languages. To all these human ties must be added one yet greater attachment. During the last years, in the course of long walks he felt himself part of the countryside where he had lived and worked so long and so happily.

Hans Debrunner has left a devoted wife, two daughters and a son Alfred who is following in his footsteps as an orthopaedic surgeon.

C. P.

**PULIYAR KRISHNASWAMI DURAIWAMI**

1912–1974

His many friends in this country will have heard with great regret of the untimely death of Professor Duraiswami on March 11, 1974, at the early age of sixty-one. After serving as a surgical specialist in World War II, he came to this country in 1947 and rapidly obtained the Degrees of Master of Orthopaedic Surgery of Liverpool University and the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Following this he was