IN MEMORIAM

WILLIAM ALEXANDER ROGERS
1892–1975

William Alexander Rogers died on April 4, 1975, at the age of 83. He became editor of the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery in 1944 and, after 1948, continued to edit the American section until his retirement, when he became Editor-in-Chief. We like to recall him as not only one of the creators of the British section of the Journal but also as leader in the happy accord that has illumined our joint venture. We are indeed indebted to this great man and join with our friends in thankfulness for all that he did.

Bill Rogers was well versed in the art of editing and also, by force of circumstances, in the technique of publishing. He had a strong antipathy to publishers but conceded that perhaps British publishers were different. The soul of efficiency, he was the most modest, courteous, kind, patient and understanding of men, but he could be firm when necessary. It is a delight to recall the charm and sense of humour with which he could dig in his heels—immovably. He was wholly devoted. His capacity for work was astounding, and he achieved distinction not only as an editor but as a practising surgeon who made a lasting contribution to the treatment of cervical injuries. In 1952 the British Orthopaedic Association honoured itself by electing him an Honorary Fellow. Sadly, he was too ill to attend the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration of the British Volume but he was graciously represented by his daughter, Mrs Roland Beers, who stole our hearts.

To her, and to the rest of the family, we offer our sincere condolences.

H. J. B.

NORMAN LESLIE CAPENER
1898–1975

Norman Leslie Capener, C.B.E., F.R.C.S., died on March 30, 1975. He was born on May 4, 1898, in Hornsey, North London, the third of a family of six boys. All were musical, and all went first to the Temple Choir School and then to the City of London School. For financial reasons Norman had to leave when fourteen to work in a City office for nearly two years before becoming an assistant master at a preparatory school. Having passed the examination of the College of Preceptors, he entered the Medical College of St Bartholomew’s Hospital. He joined the Inns of Court Officers’ Training Corps, and in September 1917 was commissioned in the Royal Marines. Thence, being a medical student, he was transferred to the Navy in the rank of Surgeon Sub-lieutenant, R.N.V.R. On a change of policy away from the employment of medical students in ships he was sent back to Bart’s to complete his training. In 1921, while still a student, he married Miss Marion Clarke, the daughter of a Captain in the Royal Navy. He qualified in 1922, proceeded F.R.C.S. in 1924, and, gaining the Luther Holden and Streetfield scholarships, served for several years as demonstrator of anatomy under Professor Le Gros Clark, for whom he had a lifelong regard. Capener then became a chief assistant on the Surgical Professorial Unit under Professor Gask and Mr (later Sir) Thomas Dunhill. When Dr Hugh Cabot took temporary charge of the Unit he invited Capener to the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, as Assistant Professor of Surgery, where he served from 1926 to 1931 and was influenced by Dr Fred Coller and Dr Carl Badgeley.

In the meantime the Devon Association for Cripples Aid had been established in 1925 under the aegis of Dame Georgina Buller, with the active collaboration of Sir Robert Jones, and the Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital had been opened in Exeter in 1927. To this, in 1931, Capener was appointed orthopaedic surgeon. He at once set about creating a comprehensive orthopaedic scheme for the whole of Devon, with peripheral clinics staffed by after-care sisters and centred on the Orthopaedic Hospital, which developed its own appliance workshop and a link with St Loyes Training College for the Disabled. In spite of improved communications, the peripheral clinic system still benefits the scattered population of Devon.

VOL. 57-B, No. 3, AUGUST 1975