ANTHON MONBERG
1892-1974

With the death of Anthon Monberg the last of a group of dedicated orthopaedic surgeons has passed away. It was they, who under Poul Guildal's dynamic leadership, developed orthopaedic hospitals and clinics all over Denmark in the thirties, in cooperation with the Danish Society for the Care of Cripples.

Monberg had a broad clinical training and obtained recognition not only in orthopaedic surgery but also in general surgery and radiology. His main training was with Professor Slomann at his private clinic in Copenhagen, and at the old Orthopaedic Clinic, Toldbodvej, before the Society for Cripples established the new Orthopaedic Hospital at Hans Knudsen's Plads. He then developed the Orthopaedic Department at St Joseph's Hospital in Copenhagen, and as a keen member of the group of consultants working in Danish Catholic Hospitals, was very helpful in developing St Joseph's Sisters' Hospitals in many of the larger towns.

The unit at St Joseph's Hospital was reorganised in 1951 and became the Third Department of the Orthopaedic Hospital. Monberg retired from this Department in 1963 but continued for many years as the senior assistant in out-patients at the mother hospital. He also conducted a large private practice right up to his death. Simultaneously he was visiting consultant to the municipal hospitals of Copenhagen and to the National Society for the Care of Poliomyelitis.

Monberg’s main contribution to Danish orthopaedic surgery was one of practical achievement. For two long periods between 1935 and 1952 he was Chairman of the Organisation of Danish Orthopaedic Surgeons. Moreover, it was he who founded the Danish Orthopaedic Association, of which he was the first President in 1946. For many years he was a member of the Board of the Nordic Orthopaedic Association, and was President in 1962 for the combined meeting in Copenhagen with the British Orthopaedic Association, of which he was made an Honorary Fellow.

Up to his death, Monberg was the professional member of the board of the Poul Guildal Foundation, being mainly responsible for the Foundation’s yearly donations and much respected by the young generation of Danish orthopaedic surgeons for the care with which he discharged this duty.

His thesis “On the Treatment of the Congenital Clubfoot” was a valuable work in its time; his later contributions were mainly concerned with orthopaedic appliances and poliomyelitis.

Monberg was a leader of the old patriarchal type, friendly and cheerful, with the appearance of the old Copenhagen bourgeois and a nicely balanced interest in gastronomics and shooting. We in Scandinavia will always cherish the memory of his sterling personality.

J. M.