

Professor Anders Langenskiöld—80 years old

Baron Anders Fabian Langenskiöld, Emeritus Professor of Orthopedics and Traumatology at Helsinki University, celebrated his 80th birthday on 7 May 1996.

He was born in Helsinki in 1916 into a family which has had a long-lasting influence on Finnish cultural life. His father, Fabian, was a Professor of Surgery at Helsinki University.

Anders Langenskiöld became a student in 1933. Under the supervision of Nobel Prize winner, Professor Ragnar Granit, he prepared his academic thesis in the field of physiology and received a Ph.D. in medicine and surgery in 1937, already before graduating from medical school. In the same year, he obtained his license to practice medicine. In 1948, he qualified as a specialist in surgery and, in 1952, in orthopedics. From 1951 to 1963, he was a Lecturer in Surgery at Helsinki University and received the title of Professor in 1964.

During the Finnish wars, he served as a military physician. He was awarded several medals and advanced to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the medical corps.

From 1947 to 1954, he was a House Surgeon and Assistant Chief Surgeon at the University Surgical Clinic in Helsinki; from 1955 to 1956, the Chief of the Department of Surgery at the Helsinki Deaconess Hospital; whereafter he became Head Physician of the Orthopedic Hospital of the Invalid Foundation. He held that post until 1968, when he was appointed to the Chair of Orthopedics and Traumatology at Helsinki University. In 1979, he resigned as Emeritus Professor. Anders Langenskiöld was also in charge of the Research Laboratory of the Invalid Foundation, which he had established in 1956, until the year 1984.

Professor Anders Langenskiöld has supervised more than 20 theses. He can be considered to be the father of pediatric orthopedics in Finland. He has developed several orthopedic surgical methods that bear his name. The best known of them is the method for correcting premature fusion of the growth plate or Langenskiöld's epiphyseodesolysis. The classification of Blount's disease and the description of its histological changes can also be credited to his investigations. Epiphyseal regeneration and cellular proliferation have been the main subject of his research. This



research has significantly developed the concepts of the function of growing bone and the phenomena at the cellular level.

Anders Langenskiöld has been a visiting professor in numerous esteemed universities—Göteborg, Harvard, Lund, Oxford, San Diego, Saskatchewan, South Carolina, Stanford, Wisconsin and Yale.

Anders Langenskiöld is an honorary member of many Finnish and international societies: Finska

läkaresällskapet (Finnish Medical Society), Finnish Surgical Society, Finnish Orthopaedic Association, American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, Royal College of Surgeons, British Orthopaedic Association, Nordic Orthopedic Federation and Scandinavian Society for Rehabilitation. He has been the chairman of several professional associations and a member of the editorial board and an editor of many leading periodicals.

Anders Langenskiöld has received many national and international awards, including the 150th Anniversary and the J.W. Runeberg Award of Finska läkaresällskapet, the Poul Guildal Award of the Scandinavian Orthopedic Association and the E.J. Nyström Award of the Societas Scientiarum Fennica.

Anders Langenskiöld's scientific work, which he actively continues, is marked by zeal, endurance and high quality. He remains one of the most prominent and internationally known researchers in the field of orthopedics.

It is difficult to describe Anders Langenskiöld as a person. Even attributes such as humane, cultivated, honest and tactful seem to fall short. Perhaps his character can best be summed up in the words *noblesse oblige*.

Anders Langenskiöld's chief hobby has been sailing and the Finnish archipelago.

The Nordic Orthopedic Federation will now honor the 80th birthday of Professor Anders Langenskiöld by arranging a Seminar on Orthopedic Research in Helsinki in September 1996.

Veijo Ritsilä and Antti Alho