IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Henrich Steffens Nissen-Lie died on May 22nd, after a relatively short illness, at the age of 75 years. After a full and satisfying life, a fine person and a man of outstanding capabilities has passed away.

It is not easy to give an adequate description of Henrich Nissen-Lie in a few words. Superlatives are called for, while at the same time we know that he himself was utterly modest in all ways, including his use of words. This modesty, so characteristic of Nissen-Lie, was in harmony with the other foremost qualities in his personality, unselfishness, absolute integrity and unshakeable resolution. Nissen-Lie endeared himself to all who were privileged to know him, and his modesty, steadfastness and compassion made him beloved as a physician. Even in untreatable cases he used his medical prowess to the utmost for the relief and consolation of his patients and won their devotion.

Nissen-Lie graduated in medicine in 1929. He gained a broad experience in orthopaedics and over the years published a series of valuable clinical works. Because of his wide ranging interests in both classical orthopaedics and traumatology he became a bridge-builder between the two fields to the great benefit of Norwegian orthopaedics. He was one of the founding members of the Norwegian Orthopaedic Association and its President from 1953–1955. After service in the Department of Surgery at Ullevål Hospital in the years from 1949–1956, when he was also a lecturer at the University of Oslo, he became chief of staff at Kronprinsesse Märthas Institutt in 1956. Under his leadership, this hospital became a centre for rheumatic and hand surgery and the neurological aspects of orthopaedic surgery in Norway. He was one of the founding members of the Scandinavian Society for Hand Surgery established in 1951. Nissen-Lie was a member of the committee of the Scandinavian Orthopaedic Association and President from 1966–1968. He was a co-editor of Acta Orthopaedica Scandinavica from 1966–1972.

For services to Norwegian orthopaedic surgery he was made an honorary member of the Norwegian Orthopaedic Association in 1972, and at an international level he was elected an honorary member of the British Orthopaedic Association in 1968. In 1973 he was knighted (Knight of the Order of St. Olav) for his efforts on behalf of orthopaedic surgery. In the same year he retired from Kronprinsesse Märthas Institutt upon reaching retirement age.

Nissen-Lie was for many years an enthusiastic cruising and racing yachtsman and his trophies include a Royal Cup. A fine sportsman, who will also be sadly missed by yachting colleagues.

May he rest in peace.

Arne Rugtveit