



ARNE BERTELSEN

11 October 1910 — 12 February 1971

IN MEMORIAM

Professor Arne Bertelsen, one of the distinguished editors of *Acta Orthopaedica Scandinavica*, is dead.

In 1941, Arne Bertelsen joined the medical corps of the Finnish army; later in the war, he became assistant surgeon at the University Hospital in Copenhagen.

The first three years after World War II, Arne Bertelsen travelled to Sweden, England, Canada, and the U.S.A. to study plastic surgery and orthopaedic surgery. His impressions during this tour were published as travelling letters in the Danish medical paper *Ugeskrift for Læger* and gave rise to a violent discussion among orthopaedic surgeons.

Arne Bertelsen soon hereafter became senior registrar of Department I, Orthopaedic Hospital in Copenhagen, and in 1952 he was appointed head of the department.

In 1953, Dr. Bertelsen defended his thesis "Beiträge zur Frage der normalen Genese der Blutzellen". He was then offered the chair in

anatomy at the University of Aarhus. However, he preferred clinical work and devoted himself to a career in surgery in Copenhagen.

Dr. Bertelsen was, from 1957 until his death, professor of orthopaedic surgery at the University of Copenhagen.

Arne Bertelsen early recognized the risk that classic orthopaedics might become isolated as a subspeciality of the care and treatment of the physically handicapped, and he worked for an integration of orthopaedics and surgery. During his professorship it became generally accepted that orthopaedics should be orthopaedic surgery and that the speciality should include treatment of acute trauma of the extremities in connexion with the original field.

By his initiative, a department for surgery of the hand was established in the Orthopaedic Hospital in 1957. An orthopaedic surgical department was established at the University Hospital in Copenhagen, and from 1968 Professor Arne Bertelsen was head of this department. As a leader he had the gift of understanding his colleagues and for conferring responsibility on them. He was always ready to lend support by his warm confidence.

His research work was extensive and especially his study of pseudarthrosis of the long bones and the influence of bone marrow on regeneration of bone won international acknowledgement.

His humour and interest in history were elegantly demonstrated in a short, funny paper "Fingers compensation and King Canute", written in collaboration with Norman Capener (*J. Bone Jt Surg.* (May 1960)).

Several young orthopaedic surgeons wrote their theses under the guidance of Prof. Bertelsen, who always followed the work closely and never let it collect dust on his desk.

During 1954-56, Dr. Bertelsen was chairman of the Danish Orthopaedic Association; in 1962, he became an honorary member of the British Orthopaedic Association.

In 1960-62, Prof. Bertelsen was a member of the Danish Parliament.

Niels Stephensen