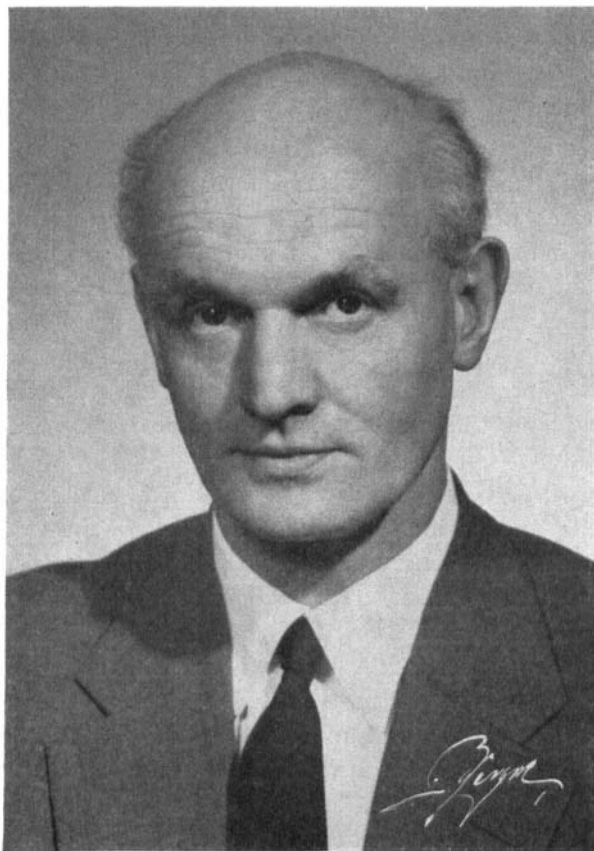




Sten Friberg

When Sten Friberg retires from the chair of orthopaedic surgery at the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, a chair which he has held for more than 25 years, he can look back on a tremendous development of orthopaedics in Sweden. At the time of his appointment as professor there was only one university service in orthopaedic surgery in Sweden. Now there are eight. The evolution of orthopaedics within the general hospitals has paralleled this and orthopaedic surgery is now represented as a subject of its own in all central county hospitals. Sten Friberg has been a leading force in this development. Above all he

has constantly pursued the concept of orthopaedic surgery as an organ specialty, i.e. a specialty for the care of disease *and trauma* in the locomotor system. These ideas are now generally accepted and development is going on along those lines in good harmony with the general surgeons.

Sten Friberg's personal scientific interests have been devoted very much to studies of the lumbar spine. A really original source of knowledge of spondylolisthesis was presented in his thesis in 1939, always cited in new papers on the subject. Through the years 1940–1950 Sten Friberg and his collaborators particularly studied the problems of low back pain and sciatica and its relation to disc herniation. In numerous papers different clinical and pathoanatomical aspects were analysed and the understanding of low back pain was much broadened.

In the year 1953 Sten Friberg was appointed Rector of the Karolinska Institute in a period of very rapid development on the Swedish university scene. The achievements of Sten Friberg as a university man have been highly esteemed and officially rewarded by the Swedish government. His interest in scientific and clinical organization and his socio-medical responsibility, for instance in insurance-medicine, where Sten Friberg's humane judgements often have played a conclusive part in difficult cases, are well appreciated. In the Scandinavian orthopaedic field Sten Friberg has been a successful editor of *Acta Orthopaedica Scandinavica*. Internationally one of his great contributions lies in being the current president of SICOT.