



GUNNAR FRISING

7/7 1875 — 6/7 1947

Gunnar Frising died at Lund on July 6, 1947. On attaining the pension age in 1940 he resigned his post as teacher in Orthopedics at the University of Lund and as Head Doctor of the Orthopedic Clinic at Lund and retired from nearly all public work. The post of Co-Principal of the South Swedish Gymnastic Institute at Lund he retained however until 1946.

Frising completed his medical studies at Lund and in that town he carried out the whole of his life's work. After his surgical training under Prof. Jacques Borelius came to an end the task of organizing and developing, together with Borelius, an Orthopedic Clinic at the Hospital in connection with the University of Lund was entrusted to him, partly on his own initiative.

After studying under *int. al.* Lorenz and Spitzzy in Vienna and Bülow-Hansen in Oslo Frising took his task in hand. The Clinic at Lund was originally intended to take charge of the general Orthopedic Clientele, including fresh extremity injuries. This was something new for Sweden. Hitherto Orthopedics had belonged entirely to the "Homes for Cripples", with their chronic crippled cases, and to a few special hospitals for bone and joint tuberculosis. In 1915 the work was started on a rather small scale but in the course of 15 years Frising had managed, by dint of his obstinate and never failing energy, to raise an Orthopedic Clinic that was excellent even by present-day standards, and that has more and more become the centre of special orthopedic treatment in the South of Sweden.

All this was perhaps not so noticeable outwardly. Frising was not always to be seen at congresses and meetings. The fundamental lines for his medical treatment were early clear to him. "He tested them and applied them with an often immoveable" resolution, completely indifferent to what other people thought or felt. A general biological fundamental view was inherent in all his work. Desk teaching was far from him, he imparted his knowledge first and foremost to his assistant doctors and co-workers. His teaching was fairly often strongly sarcastic but to his patients he was always a careful, thoughtful and interested "healer".

Frising's medical authorship did not comprise very much, owing partly to lack of time—he was often needed for organising work—and partly to his personal character. The remarks made by him in the medical daily discussions were always carefully thought out and to the point. When the initiative to starting the *Acta Orthopaedica Scandinavica* was taken Frising immediately placed his services at its disposal as Co-Editor for he found it only natural that in order to develop the Orthopedic special treatments a scientific paper devoted to them was absolutely necessary.

A task of great interest to him was his work as Co-Principal of the South Swedish Gymnastic Institute. He considered that the training of medical gymnasts ought absolutely to take place

in intimate contact with the clinical medical instruction. The co-work established between the gymnastic training at Lund and the medical gymnastic work at the Orthopedic Clinic there may be regarded as exemplary. At the time of his death Frising was engaged in compiling a handbook for medical gymnasts. That it was never completed is a matter of deep regret.

Finally if I were to extract the most essential in Gunnar Frising's life's work it would be this—he was the pioneer of a development in Swedish Orthopedics to which the present generation of Orthopedists has given its almost unreserved support and which will become the norm of the future.

*Sophus von Rosen.*