



IN MEMORIAM

PROFESSOR

ANDERS G KARLEN

1911 — 1984

Anders Karlen, born in Stockholm, was the son of a medical practitioner. He finished college education in 1929; obtained his MB in 1932, the Med Lic in 1936 and his MD in 1944. He worked for a number of years in Stockholm. In addition he was a medical practitioner at the war hospitals in Finland in 1940 and from 1942 he was in the Reserve Corps of Marine Doctors of Sweden. He was the head of the Swedish Hospital in Korea in 1950 — 51.

In 1952 Dr Karlen was appointed Lecturer in Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Malaya (then in Singapore) and in 1955 he became Senior Lecturer. He succeeded Prof J A P Cameron in the Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery in 1956 and held the post till 1961 when he was succeeded by Professor D R Gunn.

Many of us in Singapore and Malaysia have been Prof Karlen's students. He was greatly liked by his students, staff and patients. He was an outstanding orthopaedic surgeon and did much to raise the standards of orthopaedic surgery in our Republic. I was for nearly twenty months an anaesthetic trainee and I always enjoyed giving anaesthetics for Prof Karlen's patients as I could watch him at work. The atmosphere in the theatre was relaxed though serious work was going on. Later I became one of his first trainees in orthopaedic surgery. My contact with him then was brief as he had left Singapore before I returned after completion of post-graduate training. The reason I chose orthopaedics as a career was that I had seen Professor Karlen and Prof Donald Gunn work so well as a team and they did outstanding work together. Prof Karlen has many publications to his credit.

Prof Karlen was a well liked and popular figure both in the medical as well as the social scenes in Singapore. A cultured and affable colleague, he was a good friend to both professional and layman. This did not deter him from seeing faults in people and situations. Widely travelled and a man of the world, his criticisms were always balanced, terse and fair. His urbanity, cheerfulness and his sense of propriety endeared him to his many friends in Singapore. He and Mrs Karlen were very much missed when they left for Sweden.

He is survived only by his brothers and sisters with their families. To them and to the institutions that enabled Singapore to benefit by Professor Karlen's expertise we say thank you and proffer, though late, our deepest sympathies.

VKP