IN MEMORIAM

PIERRE LACROIX

1910–1971

Professor Pierre Lacroix of Louvain died suddenly at Troyes on September 11, 1971, while travelling home with his wife from a holiday in the south of France. He was only sixty-one.

Pierre Lacroix was born at Farciennes in Belgium on March 3, 1910. He graduated M.D. of the University of Louvain in 1933, and soon afterwards was appointed Professor in charge of the teaching of the anatomy of the locomotor system. Some years later he was given the task of instructing students in the surgery of orthopaedics and traumatology. About this time he was elected chief of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in the St Pierre University Hospital of Louvain, with full responsibility for organising its many activities. This explains the wide background and the exceptional competence he was able to gain in this field. Several generations of students have had the opportunity to profit from his wonderful flair for teaching.

But above all, it is the remarkable programme of bone research that Pierre Lacroix laid down and carried out that deservedly earned him a high reputation throughout the world. His fundamental work began long ago, and his book *The Organization of Bones* published in 1949 is still well remembered. Over his latter years he developed four major aspects of research on bone—its origin and development, the normal histopathology of the adult tissue, its reaction to trauma, and changes due to ageing. He devised several new techniques making it possible to understand better the microphysiology of bone and to follow more closely the life of this active tissue.

At Louvain he managed to create a strong research team, in which he would always encourage his collaborators, stimulate their inquiries and make sure they obtained due credit. To every member he was a real master and chief. This research unit, under his great authority, gave birth to four privat-docent theses. His own writings were invariably clear, logical and well illustrated, perfect in every respect. For these he received within Belgium, and indeed all over the world, high honours.

Pierre Lacroix had a magnificent intelligence allied to scrupulous honesty. Those who had the chance to know him will remember his agreeably warm personality, full of life and humour. He was kind without weakness and firm without roughness; his human contacts were soundly based on respect for the feelings of others. His friendship meant an unbreakable bond.

May his wife and family find in these few words some consolation and the proof of our deepest sympathy.

R. DE M.

CORNELIS PIETER VAN NES

1897-1972

Dr C. P. van Nes died on February 14, 1972, at the age of seventy-four. He collapsed after doing a total replacement arthroplasty of a hip. This second collapse broke his seemingly inexhaustable energy. His death signifies for the Netherlands the end of the period of exploration of new surgical methods for the improvement of the function of the locomotor system. During this period, in which many crippling diseases were not yet preventable, the clinical experience of those few Dutch orthopaedic surgeons who were exclusively devoted to this task was vast.

Van Nes was particularly interested in traumatology and reconstructive surgery. His methods were mainly based upon the old German surgical school and on Belgian and French orthopaedics. He had many contacts with colleagues from these countries, but he followed equally closely developments in the English-speaking world. He descended from a rural family at Ridderkerk, a region where tenacity of purpose is a typical trait of the population. With this tenacity he treated large numbers of patients, who sought for help from all over the country and from across its borders. From his exceptionally large experience van Nes contributed substantially to the development of osteosynthesis and to the treatment of rather exceptional affections, such as congenital pseudarthrosis and severe malformations of the leg.

This combative man was head of the Annakliniek at Leiden from 1935 until 1952. Thereafter he founded a private hospital in the region where he was born.

Van Nes exercised a magical influence on his patients and on his nursing team and furthered the training of mainly Dutch, Belgian and Swiss orthopaedic surgeons. His operating lists at the Annakliniek were truly formidable but his manual dexterity was such that a major case seldom took more than half an hour. He regularly attended orthopaedic meetings, particularly in France and Belgium, and contributed much to the Dutch Orthopaedic Association, not only by important communications but by his sound comments.

The Cornelius Vroege Foundation, the hospital van Nes created, will disappear with him. He leaves his wife, who faithfully supported him during a life of striving and struggle, a daughter and a son.

H. W. W.

RAFFAELE ZANOLI

1897-1971

Professor Raffaele Zanoli passed away at Pavia in Italy on November 21, 1971, at the age of seventy-four.

Raffaele Zanoli was born on June 19, 1897, at Mirandola. After serving with honour in the army during the first world war, he graduated at the Medical Faculty of Modena with special distinction in 1920. In 1921 he became Assistant at the Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli in Bologna, under the guidance of Professor Vittorio Putti, and in 1929 rose to Assistant

Professor of Orthopaedics. In 1930 he was Head Physician at the Hospital "Santa Corona" in Pietra Ligure, where he lavished his skill in the treatment of thousands of patients and disabled veterans.

In 1936 he started teaching orthopaedics at the University of Genova and was confirmed as Permanent University Professor in 1942 for his outstanding merit. In 1953 he was called by the Medical Faculty of Bologna, with a unanimous vote, to succeed Professor Francesco Delitala in the direction of the Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli and in the Chairmanship of the Orthopaedic Department of the University. He was in charge until 1967, when he retired on reaching the age limit.

Professor Zanolì has been one of the most distinguished figures of the orthopaedic school of Bologna. He wrote more than two hundred scientific papers, with outstanding contributions on skeletal tuberculosis, congenital dislocation of the hip, spastic paralysis, the sequelae of poliomyelitis, the surgical treatment of arthrosis of the hip, endoprostheses, tendon transplantation, and various new surgical techniques. He was a most successful rapporteur at many Italian and international congresses.

For many years Zanolì directed with distinction one of the best known orthopaedic journals, the *Chirurgia degli Organi di Movimento*, but he founded other journals, such as *Ginnastica Medica*, the bulletin of the Orthopaedic and Traumatologic Society of Emilia-Romagna and Venetia, and an original anatomical and surgical atlas, *Folia Orthopaedica*, issued by the school of anatomic and surgical drawing he had founded.

Zanolì was a man of wide culture. He went several times abroad, particularly to South America, where he was well known as a remarkable teacher and surgeon. Gifted with an exceptional surgical fibre, he gave his name to a number of original operative methods. Many of his former pupils are now heads of orthopaedic departments in various universities, or surgeons in other posts of great responsibility. For many years he has been one of the most outstanding men in orthopaedics. His colleagues and pupils will not forget his very special qualities, nor the British Orthopaedic Association his hospitality during their visit to Bologna in 1956.

O. S.

BOYTCHO BOYTCHEV

1902-1971

Professor Boytcho Boytchev, Corresponding Member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, died suddenly on December 13, 1971.

Boytchev was born at Lom on the Danube. After studying at the Medical Faculty of Sofia he graduated from the University of Modena in Italy in 1928. He became assistant to the Surgical Clinic of the University of Sofia under the chairmanship of Professor Paraskev Stoyanov. There he trained in general surgery, showing a great interest in orthopaedics with reports on Volkmann's contracture (1933), the treatment of pes cavus (1934), of Monteggia fractures (1934) and other subjects. He specialised in orthopaedic surgery in 1937 at the Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli in Bologna, under the guidance of Professor Vittorio Putti. Among the papers he wrote in Bologna were several original contributions on recurrent dislocation of the shoulder, all printed in authoritative Italian scientific journals.

After returning to Bulgaria he became Chief of the Orthopaedic Department at the Clinic. Associate Professor in 1945, he was Director of the first University Clinic for Orthopaedics and Traumatology in 1947 and Chairman two years later. In 1951 he founded the second

Clinic for Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology at the Postgraduate Medical Training Institute in Sofia, which he directed for almost twenty years. Many orthopaedic departments were founded throughout Bulgaria on his advice and with his cooperation.

Professor Boytchev wrote more than a hundred and seventy scientific papers and a *Manual of Orthopedics and Traumatology*; moreover, he was one of the founders and editors of a manual on the same subject in three volumes, published in Russian. He devised more than twenty personal surgical techniques. Among other subjects, his studies were directed to bone tumours, bone transplantation, congenital dislocation of the patella, the operative treatment of hallux valgus and arthrodesis of the hip. He also was a great lover of literature and of the history of medicine. Boytchev was the founder of the Bulgarian Orthopedic Society and of the Bulgarian Association of the History of Medicine. The first surgical journal in Bulgaria, *Surgery and Orthopedics*, was also founded by him.

In 1956 he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences, and in 1961 was elected Corresponding Member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Afterwards he founded the Centre for Bone Tumours which he directed till the very end of his life.

Professor Boytchev was the teacher of a whole generation of specialists in orthopaedics and traumatology, and kept in close contact with many foreign orthopaedic societies. His life of vigorous activity will leave lasting traces in the development of Bulgarian orthopaedics and traumatology and, indeed, of Bulgarian science as a whole.

O. S.