IN MEMORIAM

LEON GILLIS
1908–1967

The name of Leon Gillis is so closely associated with the development of modern amputation surgery in Great Britain that mention of the one, in surgical circles, immediately suggests the other. Equally is he identified with Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, where most of his professional life was spent and which he served with loyalty and single-mindedness for almost twenty-five years.

Gillis was born in Johannesburg in 1908 and qualified in medicine at the University of Witwatersrand in 1935. He held three house appointments in Johannesburg General Hospital but then came to England for postgraduate experience, and like many another young Dominion doctor stayed here for the rest of his life. Completely acclimatised as an Englishman, he yet never lost his affection for, and loyalty to, his native South Africa. His first appointment in England was as orthopaedic house surgeon in the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, and it was literally no time at all before he took the M.Ch.(Orth.) at Liverpool University. Then followed a rather curious deviation from what appeared to be his chosen career: he took two appointments in oto-laryngology and passed the examination for the D.L.O. in 1940. Soon back in orthopaedics, however, he took the Edinburgh fellowship in 1942 and the English fellowship in 1945. He learnt traumatic surgery the hard way in Birkenhead Municipal Hospital while Birkenhead was the target for heavy German bombing raids. In 1943, after a short period in Ipswich, he came to London as orthopaedic surgeon to Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton.

Queen Mary's was at that time run directly by the Ministry of Pensions and existed primarily for the care of wounded ex-servicemen. Here he found his métier, and successive echelons of ex-servicemen owed their rehabilitation to his skill and care. The needs of war pensioners and the responsibility of the country to provide them with the highest possible standards of medical care were always in the forefront of his thoughts, and continued to hold his enthusiasm and devotion after Queen Mary's became a general hospital serving the local population. A large proportion of his ex-service patients had either lost limbs in action or required amputation later, so that it was perhaps natural that he should make this his special field. He was one of the first to see amputation and limb fitting as inseparable parts of one operation, and to insist that the surgeon who amputates a limb should have the knowledge and skill necessary to plan the whole process of rehabilitation. He wrote two books on this subject—*Amputations* (1945) and *Artificial Limbs* (1947)—and both have become standard works. His opinion and advice on special problems in amputation and limb fitting were sought by orthopaedic, vascular and general surgeons all over England and from overseas. His orthopaedic interests, however, were by no means confined to amputations. He did

original work, particularly in the biomechanical field, in the early days of hip arthroplasty, explored cine-radiological techniques, and showed the value of hyperbaric oxygen in the treatment of chronic osteomyelitis. He had also an unrivalled knowledge of congenital limb deformities, even before thalidomide cast its dark shadow on the scene, and made valuable contributions to their management at the Children's Prosthetic Unit at Roehampton.

He had few interests outside surgery, but within it no aspect of professional activity escaped his attention. Research, teaching, administration—all made claims on his time and energy. In addition to his work at Roehampton he was until 1961 consultant orthopaedic surgeon to the East Ham Memorial Hospital, Barking Hospital and St John's Hospital, Battersea. He was also consultant to the Ministry of Health's Limb Fitting Centre at Roehampton and surgical adviser to the Treasury. Somehow he found time too for regular attendance at the Greenmead school for physically handicapped children. He was a stimulating teacher, as a long succession of his registrars will testify, and his biannual postgraduate courses were in demand, not only for candidates for the Fellowship examination, but from established consultants too. He was a founder fellow of the British Chapter of the International College of Surgeons, and also of the South African College of Surgeons and Physicians. He served on two hospital management committees, and on the orthopaedic advisory committee of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. He wrote prolifically—original papers, contributions to nursing journals, chapters in at least ten major textbooks, the textbooks already mentioned—and he had a textbook of orthopaedic diagnosis awaiting publication when he died. He was an active member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and was three times honoured by the College—by the Arris and Gale lectureship in 1948, a Hunterian professorship in 1956 and the Joseph Henry Memorial lectureship in 1960. In 1947 he was honoured by the award of the M.B.E.

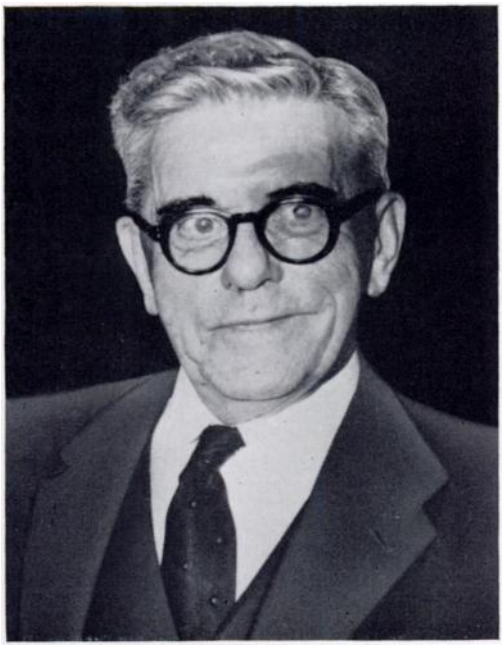
Few could have spent themselves more unremittingly in the service of surgery than he, and it is hard to resist the thought that he burnt himself out before his time. In his last few years he was increasingly restricted by ill health, but he fought most gallantly against it. Finally, faced with the choice between resignation from all surgical activity and the acceptance of an operation whose high risk he fully appreciated, he bravely and clear-sightedly chose the latter. We mourn his passing, saluting the single-minded enthusiasm with which he lived his life and the courage with which he met its end. A. G. R.

ANTHONY MORRICE HENDRY
1896–1967

Tony Hendry will be remembered with great affection by the many orthopaedic surgeons who trained at Oswestry and in Birmingham for his warm-hearted friendship, his self-effacing generosity, his insistence on the importance of basic principles and, in an era of rapid biomechanical development, his firm adherence to conservative measures, especially in hip surgery.

He was born at Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, on November 11, 1896, and was educated at Fraserburgh Academy and the University of Aberdeen Medical School. After preliminary work in Aberdeen, he was appointed resident surgical officer in the Ministry of Pensions Hospital, Highbury, Birmingham. This was the turning point of his career because he worked under the late Naughton Dunn and through him came under the influence of the late Sir Robert Jones. In 1930 he was appointed Assistant Orthopaedic Surgeon to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital at Oswestry, and eventually he became chief of the Shrewsbury firm. His early training had included a great deal of foot surgery, in which he became a master and must be acknowledged as one of the foremost authorities of our time. In this branch

his technique was superb and he never let his assistants off the rein until he was satisfied that their ability and above all their judgement matched his own. His sustained interest affected all who worked with him and his immediate assistant who succeeded him is contributing largely to our knowledge of foot movement and gait problems. It is a great loss to orthopaedic surgery that he contributed so little in writing.



In Birmingham he joined the staff of the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital. Here he attracted many young Scottish orthopaedic surgeons to come south for their training. During the war he served, in addition to his civil commitments at Barnsley Hall War Emergency Hospital, Bromsgrove, in the Emergency Medical Service and at the Derwen Rehabilitation Centre at Gobowen. As a result, he formed lasting friendships with the many Americans who served in these centres. His wartime experience led him to write an article on the treatment of residual paralysis after brachial plexus injuries in the first volume of the British Edition of the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*, still one of the most authoritative on this subject.

As a youth he played tennis and football and was no indifferent performer. As his work increased, however, he preferred the role of spectator to that of participator; becoming interested in cricket, he joined the Warwickshire Cricket Club and was a constant attender at the county ground up to the time of his last illness. Cricket probably aroused his interest in lawn culture, which became his chief garden speciality.

A keen freemason, he was a member of several lodges and held a number of high offices.

But above all his first love was surgery, and nothing was allowed to get in its way. He was never in a hurry and would sit for hours drinking innumerable cups of tea discussing the problems dear to his heart, spiced at intervals by amusing anecdotes. His affection for and kindness to his patients were proverbial, and he abhorred the appointments system, feeling that no patient should ever be refused admission to his clinics, however trivial his complaint.

He was tenacious in argument, wise in his judgement, far-seeing in matters of policy and always fair and encouraging to his juniors, thus earning their deep respect. It was a joy to see him at meetings of the British Orthopaedic Association surrounded by hordes of his old registrars, all anxious to greet their old chief and demonstrate their affection and loyalty.

He died on September 10, 1967, in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, and is survived by his wife, a daughter and two sons. He will be greatly missed by a world-wide circle of friends.

F. G. A.