

Harald Abrahamsen †



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29. I. 1885 – 20. IV. 1955

Professor *Harald Abrahamsen* died on April 20th this year – a few months after his 70th birthday.

Abrahamsen became head surgeon at Department D. of the Bispebjerg Hospital, Copenhagen, in 1927 after a thorough and all-round training. Because of his energy, his outstanding professional skill and his remarkable ability for cooperation this new department soon became one of the country's leading surgical services. This was not only due to excellent surgery, never stagnating in dull routine, but also to the fact that *Abrahamsen* put his personal mark of culture and humanity on his department. The kind and friendly atmosphere of Department D. was highly appreciated by the patients as well as by the surgical staff.

Abrahamsen was a good surgeon, but he realised early the necessity of dividing surgery into specialties and was over a long period of opposition advocating this policy which time has proved to be so advantageous. Many a young surgeon has been influenced by *Abrahamsen* to take up a special field in surgery and different branches of surgery have in this way been developed according to modern standards.

Abrahamsen himself chose urology in which he became especially interested on a study trip to U.S.A. in 1934. He was recognized as the leading surgeon of the country in this field of surgery. He introduced the transurethral operations and developed little by little all fields of urological surgery. He organized the work admirably and was first in this country to introduce an out-patient specialty service, which was opened in 1950 and run in connection with Department D. *Abrahamsen* stressed the importance of diagnosing and treating also the field of "minor urology".

He was lively interested in clinical research. A succession of 220 publications have come from his or his collaborators' hands during 27 years of his leadership.

His personality was dominated by precision, perseverance, sound judgement and technical skill and he expected the same from his collaborators. His great ability as a leader was not due to rules and regulations but to the simple fact that he was an inspiring example to all.

In 1937 *Abrahamsen* became Professor at the University of Copenhagen. He was a good teacher and his clinics were very popular.

Many honors were during his lifetime bestowed upon *Abrahamsen*; probably the one he appreciated most was the heavy volume of scientific contributions by his pupils given him on his 60th birthday.

In spite of his many professional duties he found time to cultivate his interest in nature: he was a keen horseman and a fine ornitologist. He also was interested in humaniora and very well read. He was very hospitable and a delightful host in his charming home.

His friendship was very valuable. He took great pains in helping friends when help was needed.

Abrahamsen's death is a great loss to Danish surgery. He will never be forgotten.

J. C. Christoffersen.

Editorial Note - Mitteilung der Redaktion - Communication de la Rédaction

The death of *Harald Abrahamsen*, our Danish Redactor, is a profound loss to our journal.

During the last months of his life, when he felt the time near to contemplate a successor, we have discussed this problem thoroughly.

J. C. Christoffersen, chief surgeon and urologist of Department D. of the Bispebjerg Hospital, Copenhagen, was chosen as the new Redactor of Denmark. We bid him a cordial welcome and anticipate a pleasant and valuable cooperation.

Peter A. Narath