

IN MEMORIAM

HOLGER WERFEL SCHEUERMANN
1877-1960

Holger Werfel Scheuermann died on March 3, 1960, in Copenhagen.

Scheuermann's name is well known to the orthopaedic world. He was the first to describe juvenile kyphosis, which in many countries is now known as Scheuermann's disease.

Scheuermann was the son of a practitioner from Hørsholm, near Copenhagen. He was born on February 12, 1877, and graduated in 1902. He was trained both as an orthopaedic surgeon and as a radiologist. From 1910 to 1919 he was assistant surgeon to the Society and Home for Crippled in Denmark. From 1935 he was chief radiologist to the municipal hospital, Sundby, Copenhagen. He retired in 1947.



Scheuermann described juvenile kyphosis in 1920 to 1921, when radiology still was in its youth. His concept of the pathology—disturbances in the ossification of the endplates of the vertebrae—is not unanimously accepted, but his description of the disease can be said to be classical and has not been improved upon by later authors.

Internationally, Scheuermann was probably the most well known Danish radiologist. Apart from his work on juvenile kyphosis his studies from 1932 on the normal and pathological sella turcica is internationally known. In 1937 he also described a radiographic technique for exposing the optic foramen, which also gives him credit. Although his work on juvenile kyphosis was

original, unaccountably it was not accepted for the doctorate degree of the University of Copenhagen, and he was over eighty when the University in 1957 elected him Honorary Doctor of Medicine in recognition of his work. It was touching to witness his happiness on receiving this honour although it was given him so late.

Scheuermann had a gentle and quiet personality, and his mind was engaged in practical and scientific problems. He was always to be seen at scientific meetings not only of the Radiological Society but also of the Danish Orthopaedic and Surgical Associations. He often travelled in other countries on his scientific bent; he told me once how envious he was when visiting Schmorl because of Schmorl's immense patho-anatomical material and facilities for investigation.

We in Denmark shall always remember Holger Scheuermann for his quiet kindness and for his scientific originality in the field of orthopaedics and radiology. J. M.