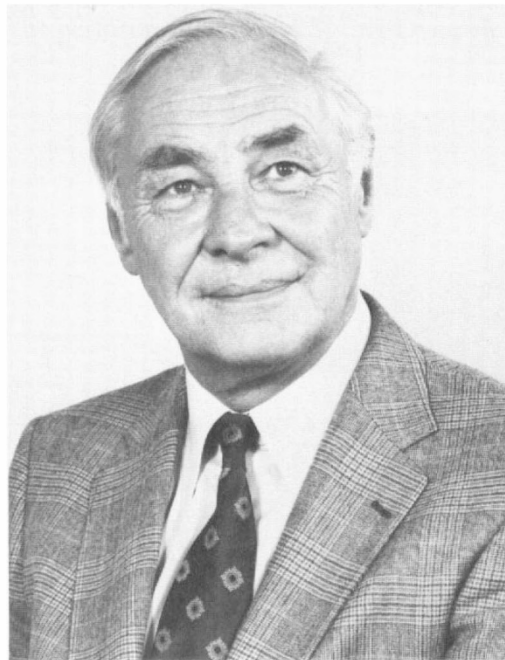


## A PROFILE

### **Dr Alan Geoffrey Hardy, M.B.E., M.A., B.M., B.Ch.Oxford, F.R.C.S.Eng., Medallist—International Medical Society of Paraplegia**

DR ALAN G. HARDY was born in Sheffield in 1915 and he studied medicine at Oxford University, and in the Middlesex Hospital in London. After internships, he joined the Royal Air Force as a medical officer and served in England and in Europe in the rehabilitation of air crews, during World War II.

After a distinguished War Service, for which he was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (M.B.E.), Military Division, he returned to Sheffield where he was the obvious person to take charge of the newly formed Spinal Injuries



Unit, dealing with war-wounded paraplegics and the increasing numbers of coal miners with spinal cord injury from the coalfields of Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

For the first few years, he worked as the only doctor in the Unit, assisted by a very able, conscientious and skilled nursing and paramedical team. He developed his own ideas and incorporated methods from his visits to other Units with the result that the Sheffield methods of orthopaedic management became world-famous, and a constant stream of overseas visitors confirmed this reputation. He contributed much original work to the early literature on spinal cord injury, and

more recently shared in the authorship of books on paraplegia for nurses and for surgeons. In 1963, he was awarded the rare honour of Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England *ad eundem*, in recognition of his work in the field of spinal paralysis.

Dr Hardy has travelled extensively, giving the benefits of his experience to new Spinal Units. He is a founder member of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia, serving on the Council, and latterly acting as an Associate Editor of the Journal.

Since retiring from active work in the Lodge Moor Spinal Unit in 1976, he has continued to take a great interest in the specialty, as those members who attend the Annual Meeting of the Society will appreciate. He has gained the great respect of his patients, and he was elected President of their Sports Club at its inception. He is a Medical Adviser to the Spinal Injuries Association and continues to advise the Nursing Council.

The award of the International Medical Society of Paraplegia Medal, the highest honour that our Society can bestow on a doctor, is a fitting testimony to the integrity, skill and public service given by Dr Hardy, not only to Sheffield, but to the world of spinal cord injury.

DR NORVAL WATSON.