

MARK CLAYSON GARDNER, M.C.

THE news that Mark Gardner died in November, 1949, will be deeply regretted by his friends all over the world. For many years he was one of the foremost ophthalmologists in Melbourne, where he was particularly respected for his wise clinical judgements, and for the generosity with which he encouraged his junior colleagues. Having graduated M.B. at Melbourne in 1908, he subsequently became M.D., and also acquired the D.O., as well as the Fellowship of the Australasian College of Surgeons. He served in the 1912 Balkan war, during which he was working for many months with Mr. Page (now Sir Max Page, D.S.O.), a distinguished surgeon of St. Thomas's Hospital.

From 1914-19 Mark Gardner performed varied and valuable tasks with the R.A.M.C., and he received the Military Cross in 1917. Then in 1919 he became House Surgeon at Moorfields Eye Hospital, as the immediate junior of William Simpson, who now practises in Wellington, New Zealand. After returning to his home city, Mark rapidly gained a prominent position in ophthalmology. He was elected to the staff of the Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, the Children's Hospital, and other institutions. In 1935 he presided over the Victorian Medico-Legal Society, which he had himself founded four years previously. He also became a member of the Council of Trinity College, Melbourne, and was chosen Honorary Treasurer of the Melbourne Medical Association. Throughout the second world war he did excellent work as Consultant Ophthalmologist at the Heidelberg Military Hospital, Victoria.

Although he had undergone a serious operation towards the end of September, 1949, Mark took a lively interest in the Annual Congress of the Australian Ophthalmological Society held at Melbourne last October. He looked frail, but nevertheless cracked many a joke, and was not in the least anxious to dwell on his own troubles. The writer of these notes can never forget Mark Gardner's humour, pluck, and width of interest, and the immense personal kindness which enabled him to put a guest immediately at ease. The years which he spent in the Old World brought him new friendships, new interests, and a profound respect for tradition, but nothing ever damped his zest for the spacious country of his origin. He was above all else an Australian, who played a worthy part in the immense contribution of Australia to medicine and surgery. It is good to hear that Richard Gardner, now a junior law student at Melbourne University, rivalled his late father's triumphs at school. With him, with Miss Gardner, with the younger sons, and above all with Mrs. Gardner, the readers of this Journal will assuredly sympathize.

J. H. D.