



## HARRISON E. KENNARD, M.D.

*Dr. Harrison E. Kennard, longtime Club member, died on January 13, 1982. These appreciative words were written by fellow member and close friend, Dr. Charles H. Bradford, and read by him at a meeting of the Harvard Travellers Club held on April 20, 1982.*

HARRISON E. KENNARD, or Hap as his friends called him, was a traveller at heart. This began in boyhood when, to the envy of his classmates, he succeeded in being excused from school for about two months in order to accompany his father on a trip to Panama and Colombia. Being always a good student this absence did his education no harm, and it introduced him to the great world that lies beyond a home environment. The fascination of that world continued with him for life.

Hap's numerous travels are recorded in the Club Year Book; but the book fails to record his many jaunts across the country, alone in his car; or his adventures on the Trans-Canada Highway to Alaska while it was still partially under construction. When he returned from these trips, he was invariably charged with information concerning all that was going on in the regions he had visited. Wherever he travelled, geography became exhilarating. It grew into a vivid composite of people and places and community life; of industry and history and politics; of scenery and wild life and natural resources. As Tennyson wrote, he "travelled with a hungry heart," and he found "cities of men, and manners, climates, councils, governments." All this he brought home with him, illustrated by many excellent photographic slides which he could describe to his friends with an enthusiastic wealth of personal knowledge.

After graduating from Harvard College (1925) and Medical School (1931), Hap completed his surgical training by an internship at the Massachusetts General Hospital, followed by a residency at the Boston City Hospital. He then combined travel with his professional work when he served as resident surgeon through the winter of 1935-36 at the Grenfell Mission in Labrador. On returning to Boston he became associ-

ated with Dr. Jason Mixter and his group, and thereafter practiced on his own. During World War II, he served in the Navy, spending one year in New Zealand, and later being assigned to various Pacific islands handling battle casualties.

Not only did Hap indulge in travel whenever possible, but he engaged in it vicariously through the Harvard Travellers Club. He joined the Club in 1926 and continued as an active member over fifty-six years. He filled numerous terms as Councillor, and from 1952 to 1954 was President. His most outstanding contribution, however, was as Secretary-Treasurer, a position he held from 1961 to 1976. During those years he faithfully served the Club in many ways. No task was too onerous for him to handle. He compiled the Year Book, prepared for meetings, arranged for speakers, mailed out notices, recorded the minutes, and carried on a voluminous correspondence. All this was done with perfectionist zeal. No geographical name, however unpronounceable, was allowed to be misspelled; nor were members' reports of their journeys entered without meticulous scrutiny and corrections as needed. This work brought Hap into intimate personal contact with all members, and it gave him the satisfaction of sharing their travel experiences. It rewarded him because of his intense devotion to the Club itself. This feeling was demonstrated by the generous bequest he left to the Club in his will.

Quite apart from travel, Hap had a very busy and productive life of responsible service. As a surgeon, he attained great skill, guided by sound judgment and backed by wide knowledge and experience. He was qualified by the Specialty Boards, and was a member of the leading societies, including the *American College of Surgeons* and the *Boston Surgical Club*. At the close of the War, a serious misfortune befell him due to an almost fatal attack of tuberculosis. This could be overcome only by prolonged hospitalization, followed by severe restrictions. Hap's finest personal triumph lay in the way he surmounted this calamity with stalwart and cheerful fortitude. He continued to give full enthusiasm and interest to as many activities as his health permitted; and he showed no sign of despondency or self-pity.

Personally, Hap Kennard was alert, intelligent, energetic, and companionable, with a host of friends. His thoroughly democratic outlook was combined with a cultivated and refined background. Beneath a pleasantly abrupt manner, he was deeply kindhearted. His ready sense of humor was always present. Perhaps his most outstanding traits were practical common sense combined with unresting initiative. These gave clarity to his judgment and force to his character. His life never lacked interest, enterprise, or achievement. He was in every respect an uncommonly worthwhile man.