



**ST. JAMES'S PALACE**

I am extremely proud to be the Patron of The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. To write this foreword to Professor Beasley's account of its first seventy five years is therefore a particular pleasure.

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons may be young as Royal Colleges go, but like the countries and peoples it serves its story is one of vigour and achievement. If there is such a thing as a common national characteristic of Australians and New Zealanders, it is a constant striving for excellence and it is this particular characteristic that is most recognisable in the work of the College to date.

As Professor Beasley points out in his introduction, he has been a Fellow of the College for somewhat more than half its life, and "there or thereabouts" during many of the events he describes. This has been both an advantage and a challenge to him, and I am sure that many readers of his history will find some of their own personal experiences reflected in his account.

I commend the College for its desire to place its history on record before too much of its early life is forgotten. And I am sure that it will continue to earn the respect and gratitude of the peoples of Australia and New Zealand during its next seventy five years.