

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MEDICAL HISTORY AT MADRID

The tenth of the international congresses of the History of Medicine, which are held every second year in various capitals of Europe, met at Madrid from September 22nd to 29th, under the presidency of Dr. Gregorio Marañón, who is well known both as a medical historian and as a Spanish physician. The British Government was represented by Sir Humphry Rolleston and Dr. John D. Comrie of Edinburgh. Other British members included Professor J. A. Nixon and Dr. J. D. Rolleston.

The formal proceedings opened with a reception of the delegates and members of the congress in the palace of the Senate on the evening of September 22nd; this was attended by about 400 persons, who came from many countries, in some cases from as far distant as the Philippine Islands and Peru. On September 23rd members were conveyed by motor car to Toledo, where they were received by the civil, military, and ecclesiastical authorities of the city. The Archbishop of Toledo presided at the inaugural session, which was held in the old hospital of Santa Cruz founded by Cardinal Mendoza and Queen Isabella at the beginning of the sixteenth century. This magnificent building with richly ornamented roof contains four large wards arranged in the form of a cross, and was used in the sixteenth century for the treatment of cases of contagious disease. The remainder of the day was spent in visiting the historic buildings, Moorish and Renaissance, in which Toledo is so rich; in the evening guests were entertained at the country house of Dr. Marañón. Throughout the week the congress continued its morning meetings in the Senate House at Madrid, while the afternoons were devoted to various excursions to museums and places of historic interest in the neighbourhood.

Among the many subjects discussed was that of Arab medicine in Spain, with various communications upon Arab medicine in general and medicine among oriental peoples. This was followed by a discussion and papers upon medicine in America during the discovery and colonization of the New World and in the colonial territories of Spain. Later in the week the medical folklore of Belgium, Morocco, Argentina, Peru, Poland, the Canary Islands, Armenia, Scotland, etc., was discussed. On the last day of the congress various papers on independent subjects were read. Some of the most interesting of these dealt with: Arnold of Villanova (Professor Diepgen, Berlin); the first hospital for workmen's accidents, founded at the Escorial of Philip II (Dr. Decref, Madrid); the history of the mineral waters of the Pyrenees (Dr. Guitard, Paris); surgery of the sixteenth century in Spain (Dr. Escribano, Granada); history of Spanish psychiatry (Dr. Riera, Saragossa); history of the psychology of India (Dr. Ibanez, Barcelona); evolution of neuropsychiatry in Rumania (Dr. Paulian, Bucarest); the temples of Greek medicine (Dr. Rosello, Montevideo); history of the plague in Turkey (Dr. Suheyl, Istanbul); and the necessity of making obligatory the study of medical history in the universities (Dr. Szumowski, Cracow).

On Saturday, September 28th, an excursion was made to the Palace of the Escorial, where the old manuscripts of the library and artistic treasures were displayed. On the following day, after the closing of the congress, there was an interesting ceremony at the old University of Alcalá de Henares, when some eight official representatives of the various nations attending the congress received the honorary membership of the College of Physicians of Madrid. This ancient university, which once numbered some 10,000 students, has now been absorbed by the University of Madrid, and only its buildings remain. The town is also celebrated as the birthplace of various distinguished men, including Cervantes, the author of *Don Quixote*. The ceremony was carried out with old-time observances of mace-bearers, robes, and procession, and the honorary degrees were conferred with the accolade of a sword presented by the president. As a representa-

tive of England Sir Humphry Rolleston received this honour. In contrast to this ancient ceremony the congress had, earlier in the week, visited the new university on the outskirts of Madrid, which is at present under construction and of which part is expected to be ready for occupation this autumn. The buildings extend over about a square mile of ground to the north of the city, and were begun in 1930. They include large modern laboratories, and the clinical department will comprise a new hospital with between 1,500 and 2,000 beds. A party of the congress also visited Dr. Marañón's clinic in the Madrid General Hospital. This section of the hospital, built and equipped by Dr. Marañón some years ago in modern style, with biochemical laboratory, x-ray plant, etc., is devoted largely to the study of endocrine disorders, which appear to be of frequent incidence in Spain, and in the study of which Dr. Marañón is a recognized authority. Members were shown many cases of pituitary and thyroid dysfunction, Addison's disease, etc. An admirable display of Arabic and other old Spanish medical books, and of several dioramas illustrative of historic scenes in Spanish medicine, had been arranged by the Wellcome Historical Research Museum, London, and was on view at the congress. This museum had also issued, prior to the congress, a small commemorative book dealing with Spanish influence on the progress of medical science.

Universities and Colleges

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The Raymond Horton-Smith prize for the academic year 1934-5 has been awarded to Arthur Carleton Crooke, M.A., M.D., Queen's College, the subject of whose M.D. thesis is, "The Changes in the Basophil Cells of the Pituitary Gland in Human Disease"; and James Montague Wallace, M.A., M.R.C.S., Downing College, subject, "The Red Cell Adhesion Test and Other Serological Reactions in Trypanosomiasis," who are adjudged equal.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The following appointments are announced: Honorary Research Assistant in the Department of Anatomy and Embryology: Dr. E. E. Evans Pritchard. Honorary Research Assistant in the History of Medicine: Mr. R. Somerville. Demonstrators in Anatomy: Mr. M. C. Lendon and Mr. M. T. Greig.

BIRKBECK COLLEGE

At a meeting held at 29, Portman Square, W., on October 2nd, Lord Luke announced that the Duke of York had accepted the invitation to become president of Birkbeck College, of which the King and Queen are patrons. It was also reported that the Court of London University had allotted a position to the College on the Bloomsbury site, where it will become an integral part of the new University buildings. From its foundation in 1823 to 1866 the college was known as the Birkbeck Literary and Scientific Institution, and the first president was Dr. George Birkbeck, a general practitioner, who held the office until his death in 1841. The name of the institution was changed to Birkbeck College in 1907, and in 1921 the college was admitted as a school of the University of London for evening students. A further meeting in connexion with the plans for rebuilding the college will be held at the Mansion House on November 7th.

LONDON HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE

The second open scholarship of the value of £100 for the session 1935-6 has been awarded to A. P. Dick.

LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

ACADEMIC POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—W. Ainslie, F. H. Morrell, R. M. M. C. Orpwood, Sheila R. Röss.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

The following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH.—(Part II): J. B. Mackie, H. E. C. Sutton, Patricia I. Uersworth.

Medicine, and on constipation to *Fowler's Dictionary of Practical Medicine*; and was also a medical referee for the Royal National Hospital for Consumption and the British Home for Incurables and an honorary life member and examiner to St. John Ambulance Association. Dr. Shelly took particular interest in radiological research and in ophthalmology. He had been a member of the British Medical Association for forty-eight years, and was vice-president of the Metropolitan Counties Branch in 1920, and a member of the Medical Officers of Schools Subcommittee from 1925 to 1929.

We regret to record the death on September 12th of Dr. EDWIN EVANSON JONES of Openshaw, Manchester. Dr. Jones, who was the son of the late Dr. Edwin Jones of Rhyl, took the Scottish triple qualification in 1887. After holding posts at the Chorlton Union Hospitals and the Chorlton-upon-Medlock Dispensary, he was appointed medical officer to the Openshaw District, Manchester Area. Dr. Jones had been in continuous membership of the British Medical Association since 1888.

Medical News

The St. Bartholomew's old students' dinner will be held for the first time in the College Hall, Charterhouse Square, on Tuesday, November 5th, at 7.30 for 8 p.m., with Mr. W. Girling Ball in the chair. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales (a Perpetual Student of the college) has signified his intention to be present. The occasion will be regarded as the official opening of the new college.

Professor William Bulloch, F.R.S., will deliver the Schorstein Memorial Lecture on "Medical Periodical Literature" in the anatomical theatre at the London Hospital on Thursday, October 17th, at 4.15 p.m. Members of the medical profession are invited to attend.

Professor R. A. Fisher, F.R.S., will deliver two lectures on "Eugenics and National Health" at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, W.C., on Wednesdays, October 16th and 23rd, at 4.30 p.m. Professor Major Greenwood, F.R.S., will take the chair at the first lecture.

Dr. S. W. Fisher of the Mines Department will address the Advisory Medical Committee of the Industrial Welfare Society on "Medical Aspects of a Miner's Life," at 14, Hobart Place, S.W., on Tuesday, October 15th, at 5.30 p.m.; at 7.45 p.m. Dr. D. A. Coles, who is retiring from the chairmanship of the committee, will be entertained to dinner at the Goring Hotel, Ebury Street, S.W.

Dr. L. A. Rowden will deliver his presidential address on "Looking Backward and Looking Forward" before the British Institute of Radiology, at 32, Welbeck Street, W., on Thursday, October 17th, at 8 p.m. On Friday, October 18th, meetings will be held—at 3.30 p.m. by the medical committee, and at 5 p.m. by the medical members.

A series of lectures on "The Hygiene of Youth" will be delivered under the joint auspices of the Royal Institute of Public Health and the Institute of Hygiene at 28, Portland Place, W., on Wednesdays, at 3.30 p.m., from October 23rd to November 27th, both dates inclusive.

A drawing-room meeting in support of the Society for the Visitation of the Sick in Hospitals will be held at 133, Harley Street on Wednesday, October 16th, at 4 p.m. The speakers include Professor D. M. Blair, dean of the medical faculty, King's College, London.

A meeting of the Medico-Legal Society will be held at 26, Portland Place, W., on Thursday, October 24th, at 8.30 p.m., when Dr. C. A. Mitchell will deliver his presidential address on "Forensic Chemistry in Relation to Medicine." Readers are asked to note the new meeting-place of the society.

A sessional meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute will be held at Bangor Town Hall on Friday, October 18th, at 3 p.m., in conjunction with the Welsh Branch of the Society of Medical Officers of Health. Papers will be

read on "Control of Infectious Diseases in Rural Areas," by Dr. D. E. Parry Pritchard, and on "Housing and Town Planning," by Mr. B. Price Davies.

The programme for 1935-6 of the West Kent Medico-Chirurgical Society opens to-day (Friday, October 11th) with the annual general meeting. Addresses will be given on November 8th, by Dr. Charles Beney, on "The Chronic Discharging Ear"; on December 13th, by Mr. W. Sampson Handley, on "Gastric Derelicts"; on February 14th, by Dr. Geoffrey Bamber, on "The Treatment of Some Common Affections of the Skin"; and on March 13th, by Dr. Harold Crampton, on "The Unexpected in Anaesthesia." A clinical evening will be held on January 10th. On April 3rd there will be a debate on the motion "That the Neurotic Patient should be Treated by his own Family Doctor." On May 6th the president will deliver his address, and the annual dinner and dance will be held at Chiesman's Restaurant, Lewisham, S.E., on May 16th. All other meetings will be held at the Miller General Hospital, Greenwich, S.E., at 8.45 p.m.

A meeting of the Royal Microscopical Society will be held at B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C., on Wednesday, October 16th, at 5.30 p.m., when Mr. M. Wiedling will exhibit and describe some new types of Leitz microscopical equipment.

The annual meeting of the British Orthopaedic Association will be held in Manchester on Friday and Saturday, October 25th and 26th. The discussion on the first day, on fractures of the os calcis, will be in three parts: (1) "The Economic Results in Os Calcis Fractures," openers are Mr. B. L. McFarland and Mr. W. J. Eastwood, followed by Mr. J. P. Hosford, Mr. R. J. Furlong, and Mr. T. T. Stamm; (2) "Results of Attempted Reduction in a Series of Recent Fractures," to be opened by Dr. E. E. Myers of Boston, U.S.A.; and (3) "The Treatment of Old Fractures," to be opened by Mr. R. Ollerenshaw and Mr. A. H. Todd. On the second day short papers will be read as follows: "The Use of Substandard Cinematograph Films in Case-recording" (Mr. Ollerenshaw); "The Mechanism of Bone Absorption" (Professor S. L. Baker and Dr. E. W. Twining); "Congenital Torticollis" (Mr. C. H. Gray); "Osteochondritis in Cases of Congenital Dislocation of the Hip" (Dr. M. F. Johnstone); and "Fractures of the Internal Epicondyle of the Humerus" (Mr. H. O. Clarke).

The Joint Tuberculosis Council has arranged a post-graduate course to be given by the medical and surgical staff of Brompton Hospital from Monday, November 4th, to Saturday, November 9th, at 10 a.m. daily. All inquiries should be addressed to Dr. William Brand, honorary secretary for post-graduate courses, Joint Tuberculosis Council, 8, Christchurch Place, Epsom, Surrey.

A post-graduate course in urology will be held at St. Paul's Hospital, Endell Street, W.C., on Wednesdays, at 4.30 p.m., from October 16th to November 27th (both dates inclusive). The course is free to registered medical practitioners and students.

The Fellowship of Medicine (1, Wimpole Street, W.) announces the following courses: gynaecology, at Chelsea Hospital for Women, October 21st to November 2nd; neurology, at West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases, October 21st to 26th; chest diseases, at City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Heart and Lungs, Victoria Park, E., October 28th to November 2nd; anatomy and physiology, at Infants Hospital, Vincent Square, S.W., on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at 8 p.m. (in preparation for the primary F.R.C.S.); obstetrics, at City of London Maternity Hospital, October 19th and 20th; physical medicine, at St. John Clinic, October 26th and 27th. Lectures will be given on endocrinology on October 15th and 17th, at 8.30 p.m., at National Temperance Hospital; on radium in gynaecology, by Dr. Malcolm Donaldson, October 16th, at 4 p.m., at Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, W. On October 15th and 16th, at 5 p.m., Mr. C. L. Gimblett and Mr. G. G. Penman will give demonstrations of medical ophthalmology for M.R.C.P. candidates at Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital. Courses and demonstrations arranged by the Fellowship are open only to members.

A series of post-graduate lectures will be given at Ancoats Hospital, Manchester, on Thursdays, at 4.15 p.m., from October 17th to November 28th, both dates inclusive. On December 5th, at 4.15 p.m., medical and surgical cases will be discussed at a clinical meeting.

We are asked to announce that the weekly lecture and demonstration at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, W.C., details of which are given in the diary column of the *Supplement*, form part of a series. Full particulars may be obtained from the dean.

On October 7th the new Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University (Professor J. S. B. Stopford) and Mrs. Stopford were entertained to dinner in the Whitworth Hall of the University by members of the Court, Council, Senate, and teaching staff. The large company included the Chancellor (Lord Crawford and Balcarres), the chairman of council (Sir Christopher Needham), the treasurer (Sir Ernest D. Simon), the Pro-Vice-Chancellors (Professors Gibson and Stocks), the chairman of Convocation (Dr. T. A. Goodfellow), the Lord Mayor of Manchester, and the Mayors of Salford, Blackburn, Bolton, and Wigan, the president of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the chairman of the Manchester Royal Infirmary, and the presidents of the Manchester Medical Society and Manchester Law Society.

The issue of *Paris Médical* for September 21st and of the *Deutsche medizinische Wochenschrift* for September 27th are devoted to blood diseases.

The Academy of Sciences of Rome announces that a Bocconia prize of 150,000 lire will be awarded for the best work on the aetiology and treatment of malignant growths.

Professor Roussy, dean of the Paris faculty of medicine, has been nominated an officer of the Legion of Honour.

Letters, Notes, and Answers

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to **The EDITOR, British Medical Journal, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.**

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the *British Medical Journal* alone, unless the contrary be stated. Correspondents who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names, not necessarily for publication.

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The TELEPHONE NUMBER of the British Medical Association and the *British Medical Journal* is EUSTON 2111 (internal exchange, five lines).

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The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 18, Kildare Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone: 62550 Dublin), and of the Scottish Office, 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone: 24361 Edinburgh).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Chronic Arthritis

"J. H." (Renfrewshire) writes: I shall be grateful for any suggestions as to treatment in the following case. Lady, later middle age, has suffered for one and a half years from arthritis. The finger and thumb joints are the ones giving most trouble now. She has had all kinds of internal treatment, spa treatment, and ultra-violet rays. Any local form of treatment makes the joints worse; in fact, cold water gives most relief for the time being.

Blepharitis

Mr. SYDNEY TIBBLES writes, in answer to "M.B., Ch.B." (October 5th, p. 650): If he first soaks the scales between the roots of the lashes in a tepid solution of 1 per cent.

sodium bicarbonate they will become loosened or dissolved, and any debris can be removed with a blunt-pointed instrument; should any raw surface be found below the crusts apply 1 per cent. silver nitrate in solution on a fine brush; then, and not till all traces of the crusts have been removed, apply ung. hyd. ox. flav. to the edge of the lids. Build up the patient's health, and be certain that any glasses she is wearing are absolutely correct; if they are not, they may merely produce another error in place of the one she originally had. It may seem absurd to stress this point, but having seen the most minute errors cause styes, cysts, migraine, blepharitis, and conjunctivitis, it has been interesting to find them clear up after a proper correction when the usual local treatments gave only temporary relief.

Gastric Carcinoma after Gastro-enterostomy

Professor SEYMOUR BARLING writes: In the *Journal* of October 5th (p. 650) "D. V." asks for suggestions in the case of a patient presenting general failure of health with local symptoms fourteen years after a gastro-enterostomy who was satisfactory up to a short time ago. If, as he states, jejunal ulcer is absent, the possibility of gastric carcinoma must be borne in mind; for, though this is said to be rare under the circumstances, I have met with the complication twice recently, and the clinical picture is a very indefinite and misleading one owing to the presence of the stoma, and radiographic, chemical, and clinical findings must be interpreted in the light of the altered physiology of the stomach. The presence of a tumour or of occult blood would be strongly suggestive, whilst the radiographic examination must be undertaken with this possible complication in mind.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Faraday's Eyesight and the "Blind Spot"

A paragraph in *Nature* of January 12th referred to an entry in Faraday's diary of date January 15th, 1835, in which Faraday mentioned "a slight obscurity of the sight of my left eye." Dr. Frank Marsh, in a letter published in the *British Medical Journal* of September 28th, suggests that Faraday had discovered his physiological blind spot. A note in *Nature* of October 5th points out that Dr. Marsh's suggestion that the blur in Faraday's vision was due to his blind spot is not satisfactory for several reasons. "Faraday describes it as a 'slight obscurity of the sight,' that is, it was a definite blur—in ophthalmological phrase, a positive scotoma. The blind spot causes a hiatus in vision, but no positive blur; in other words, causes a negative scotoma. Apparently the blur was first noticed when Faraday used both eyes in reading, though it is not definitely stated that the right eye was open. If both eyes were being used the blind spot would not be noticed in reading. Moreover, the size of the scotoma ('about half an inch in diameter') does not correspond with the visual angle subtended at the nodal point of the eye by the normal blind spot. Faraday's description is meticulously accurate, as one would expect from him, and it is unlikely that he would write 'to the right and below the axis of the eye' if the true projection were to the left, as would be the case for the blind spot. It is probable that Faraday had a temporary retinal lesion, possibly a small retinal haemorrhage, and that this accounted for the obscurity he described. In concluding his letter Dr. Marsh asks whether Faraday's entry was the earliest reference to observations on the physiological 'blind spot.' It was certainly not; for in the second volume of the *Philosophical Transactions* it is recorded that Mariotte demonstrated the blind spot to the Royal Society before King Charles II in 1668."

Motor Car Insurance

"CLIFTON," in the course of a letter describing some personal experiences, makes the sensible suggestion that all medical men should carefully study the terms of their motor car insurance policies when these are first issued to them, so that there may be no possibility of misunderstanding with regard to the cover afforded. He suggests that it might be wise in these days to have cover against legal costs in the higher courts.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, and 58 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 56 and 57.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 172.