

# The Journal of Laryngology and Otology

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**THE FIFTH BRITISH ACADEMIC CONFERENCE  
IN OTOLARYNGOLOGY  
BIRMINGHAM**

**Introduction**

THE Fifth British Academic Conference was held in Birmingham, Britain's second largest city. More than a thousand delegates, including wives, attended.

At the opening ceremony the delegates were welcomed by the Chancellor of the University, Sir Peter Scott, who had just returned from his more familiar role as a naturalist, and had been attending the International Conference on Whaling. He gave a most enthusiastic welcome to the delegates and their families, not only to the University, but to the city itself, and he had already examined the forthcoming programme. He noticed that the first session to be held on the Monday morning was on Septo-rhinoplasty, which he had interpreted as possibly 'seven plastic rhinos', but expressed the hope, being a conservationist, that the rhinoceros was not in danger of extinction and would not be saved for posterity in the form of seven plastic models!

After this welcome, Mr. J. Angell-James, Master of the Fourth Conference in London in 1975, thanked the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor, Lord Hunter, for their welcome and installed the new Master, Sir Geoffrey Bateman. Sir Geoffrey, in his Address, traced the history of the Conference back to its earliest period, some 16 years earlier in London, and he informed the Conference that he had received a telegram of good wishes from the then Master, Mr. Simpson Hall, and hoped that he might be in a similar position to send such a telegram in the future!

He declared the Conference open, together with the Scientific and Trade exhibitions.

Once again the Conference was blessed with excellent weather, enabling everyone to move across the University campus with ease and enjoyment. Some two-thirds of the delegates were visitors from 50 overseas countries.

The academic programme was larger than at any previous conference and the Great Hall of the University, seating 1,000 people, was comfortably full for the Plenary Sessions each morning. On the Wednesday, two quizzes were held—first in Laryngology and later in Otology—which provided the audience with both entertainment and education and panellists were tested, teased and taunted by their tormentors ('Moderators').

On four of the afternoons, hour-long instructional sessions were held, two of which were extended over the whole afternoon (Hypophysectomy for pituitary tumours and Cochlear implants), covering all aspects of our

specialty. Some 80 speakers participated in the plenary and instructional sessions, a third coming from the United Kingdom and Eire, the remainder from 17 overseas countries. The film programme was the largest ever attempted. Films were shown continuously in the main theatre all day and also in a second theatre during the mid-day period. Each film received two showings, one of which was during the 'peak' mid-day time.

The Scientific Exhibition was full of interest and was never without visitors, and the effort put in by the exhibitors was self-evident from the high quality and professionalism of their presentations. A superb separate presentation was provided by the Medical Branch of the Royal Air Force, covering the subject of 'Man and Balance'. From this extensive exhibition it was possible for delegates to obtain considerable insight into the problem of labyrinthine function, both normal and disordered, in the realm of flight safety, and they had an opportunity of being spun in a flight simulator at varying speeds in total darkness, to see the effect this had upon their own sensation of orientation in space, particularly with regard to night flying.

After the opening ceremony delegates were entertained at a cocktail party kindly given by the Midland Institute of Otology; this gave them their first opportunity to meet many old friends and put a face to many names, of which they had already heard or read, from other parts of the world.

The Master's reception at the Botanical Gardens on the Monday evening took place on a perfect Summer's evening, allowing everyone to walk across the spacious lawns, and some were even able to hear the strains of music from the bandstand.

For the Garden Party on the Wednesday afternoon, the only word to describe it was 'sumptuous'. Ragley Hall, the home of the 8th Marquess of Hertford, was closed to the public for the afternoon. Guests had an opportunity to view the beautiful house, eat their strawberry tea in the attached marquee and listen to the band of His Lordship's regiment, the Grenadier Guards, playing in the rose garden; afterwards they could wander at leisure through the grounds. It was evident that the ladies greatly enjoyed the opportunity to show off their feathers and were not to be outdone by their husbands preened in their academic robes.

On the Thursday evening an excellent banquet was held which gave the organisers an opportunity to thank the Lord Mayor and the Vice-Chancellor for the facilities which they had so kindly provided during the week.

Earlier in the week, on the Tuesday, the Lord Mayor of Birmingham had provided a reception at a performance of the 'The Life and Poetry of Dylan Thomas' given by Mr. Emlyn Williams. Two opportunities were also provided for delegates to attend performances at the Royal Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford.

The Ladies' Programme was full and varied and included visits to the Coalport china museum, the Worcester porcelain factory, Coventry Cathedral, Warwick Castle, Charlecote House and many other places of local interest.

At the end of the week it was evident that not only had the delegates greatly enjoyed themselves, and made many new friends, but the Conference had again proved to be a resounding success; the efforts of all those involved in its organization over the previous three years had been greatly appreciated.

JOHN BOOTH

Honorary Secretary, Academic Committee



**THE FIFTH BRITISH ACADEMIC CONFERENCE IN  
OTOLARYNGOLOGY**

**BIRMINGHAM**

**23-27 July, 1979**

**Master: Sir Geoffrey Bateman**

**PLENARY SESSIONS**

Monday, 23 July, 1979

**SEPTO-RHINOPLASTY**

*Chairman:* The Master—Sir Geoffrey Bateman

1. Applied surgical anatomy and physiology: Dr. R. Th. R. Wentges (The Netherlands)
2. Surgery of the bony pyramid: Dr. C. Walter (West Germany)
3. Surgery of the nasal tip: Dr. W. Goodman (Canada)
4. Closure of septal defects: Mr. D. Brain (Birmingham)  
(By title only)

In view of the technical nature of most of these papers, it was felt that they were not suitable for summarizing. Some of them may appear in full in later issues of the Journal.

Tuesday, 24 July, 1979

**CHRONIC TUBAL DYSFUNCTION**

*Chairman:* Mr. Andrew Morrison (London)

1. Pathology and immunology in relation to the Eustachian tube and middle ear: Professor T. Palva (Finland)
2. Evaluation of Eustachian tube function: Drs. J. Holmquist and L. Olén (Sweden)
3. Management of tubal function in reconstructive middle ear surgery: Dr. M. Tos (Denmark)
4. Middle ear function in the cleft palate patient: Dr. J. Copner Webster (U.S.A.)
5. Long-term assessment of ventilation tubes: Mr. A. Gibb (Dundee)
6. Permanent middle ear aeration: Dr. H. Silverstein (U.S.A.)

Wednesday, 25 July, 1979

## OTOLARYNGOLOGICAL QUIZ

*Chairman:* Mr. N. L. Crabtree (Birmingham)

### 1. LARYNGOLOGY

*Moderators:* Professor D. F. N. Harrison (London)  
Mr. R. Pracy (London)

*Panel:* Dr. P. Van den Broek (The Netherlands)  
Professor D. P. Bryce (Canada)  
Dr. A. G. Maran (Edinburgh)  
Professor B. McCabe (U.S.A.)  
Dr. H. Millar (Australia)

### 2. OTOLOGY

*Moderator:* Mr. G. D. L. Smyth (Belfast)

*Panel:* Dr. D. F. Austin (U.S.A.)  
Dr. M. E. Glasscock (U.S.A.)  
Dr. J. L. Sheehy (U.S.A.)  
Dr. W. K. Wright (U.S.A.)

Thursday, 26 July, 1979

## MALIGNANT DISEASE OF THE OROPHARYNX

*Chairman:* Mr. J. F. Neil (Nottingham)  
President of the Section of Laryngology,  
Royal Society of Medicine

1. Diagnosis and assessment of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma: Dr. A. M. Jelliffe (London)
2. The management of lymphomas in the oropharynx: Dr. E. Wiltshaw (London)
3. Safe and effective combination chemotherapy for squamous cell carcinomas of the head and neck; Drs. L. A. Price and B. T. Hill (London)
4. The role of radiotherapy: Professor Dr. G. B. Snow (The Netherlands)
5. Pre-operative radiotherapy: Dr. C. Krause (U.S.A.)  
(By title only: summary not submitted)
6. Surgical treatment of oropharyngeal carcinoma: Professor P. M. Stell and Mr. S. K. Gupta (Liverpool)
7. Surgical reconstruction: Mr. H. J. Shaw (London)



Friday, 27 July, 1979

**TRAUMA AND THE TEMPORAL BONE**

*Chairman:* Mr. P. H. Beales (Doncaster)  
President of the Section of Otology,  
Royal Society of Medicine

1. The effects of blast on the ear: Professor A. G. Kerr (Belfast)
2. *Decompression injuries in the temporal bone:* Surgeon Captain P. W. Head  
(*Royal Navy*)
3. Ossicular lesions: Mr. V. T. Hammond (London)
4. Traumatic fistulae: Dr. V. Goodhill (U.S.A.)
5. Management of intratemporal facial nerve injuries: Professor Dr. U. Fisch  
(Switzerland)

(By Title only)

**INSTRUCTIONAL SESSIONS**

**FILMS**

**SCIENTIFIC EXHIBITS**

