GENERAL NOTES

IVTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY LONDON—JULY, 1949

THE IVth International Congress of Otolaryngology will be held at King's College, Strand, London, from July 17th to 23rd inclusive, under the presidency of Mr. V. E. Negus, M.S., F.R.C.S.

On Sunday, July 17th the bureau will be open for registration from 2.30 p.m. On Monday, July 18th the Congress will be opened by H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent, and the academic business will begin at 2 p.m. on Monday with a discussion on "Antibiotics and chemotherapy in the treatment of nasal sinusitis and its complications". This will be opened by Sir Alexander Fleming, Sir Lionel Whitby and Dr. Carlos Larroudé. There will be two discussions later in the week on the "Treatment of Aural Vertigo" and "Non-malignant strictures of the œsophagus and their treatment". In addition, there will be about 150 papers by contributors from more than 25 different countries. These will be given in four theatres which will be running concurrently. The languages of the Congress are French, English and German. There will be a more or less continuous performance of films made by otolaryngologists from all over the world.

There will be a museum display of anatomical and pathological specimens and of historical objects. Various demonstrations of otolaryngological techniques will be given at King's College during the Congress. On the Tuesday and Thursday afternoons demonstrations of operations and clinical cases have been arranged at most of the teaching hospitals of London.

There is a refectory at King's College where members and their friends can get lunch and refreshments during the meeting.

Many social functions have been arranged for the Congress. On the Monday night the President is giving a reception to all the members at the Zoological Gardens. On the Tuesday the foreign members and their wives will be the guests of their British colleagues at the Banquets of the Congress at Guildhall and the Apothecaries' Hall.

Receptions to members are being given by His Majesty's Government, the B.M.A., the L.C.C., the Presidents of the R.S.M. and the sections of Otology and Laryngology, and the President and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons. Numbers at all these are limited and members will be invited individually at the time of registration.

On Saturday afternoon members and their wives will go down the river to Greenwich and it is hoped that there will be a large number cementing the friendships made and renewed during the week.

A number of excursions and entertainments have been arranged for the ladies, including trips to Great Fosters, Windsor, Hampton Court and Hatfield House.

General Notes

On Monday and Tuesday of the next week scientific and social functions have been arranged at Edinburgh, Oxford and Cambridge.

The details of the various activities will be available in the programme which members will receive on registration at King's College. At present it would appear that about 500 otolaryngologists from all over the world will be present and that about 300 of them will be accompanied by their wives.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AUDIOLOGY

THE second meeting to the International Conference on Audiology will be held in London immediately prior to the Fourth International Congress of Otolaryngology. Meetings will be held on Friday, July 15th, and Saturday, July 16th, at the Royal Society of Medicine, I Wimpole Street, London, W.I. at 0.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m., under the presidency of Professor Gunnar Holmgren of Stockholm, with Professor H. C. Huizinga of Gröningen as secretary, and an international committee which includes Drs. Norton Canfield and E. P. Fowler, junior (U.S.A.), Professor E. Lüscher (Switzerland), and Mr. C. S. Hallpike (England). The purpose of the Conference is to further the investigation, prevention and alleviation of deafness by means of modern instrumental, educational and sociological methods. An important part of the programme will be the study of the problems connected with the provision and standardization, upon an international basis, of audiometers and hearing aids. The provisional programme is:—Friday morning: Committee meetings. Friday afternoon: papers on various aspects of audiology. Saturday all day: A survey of the work in the field of audiology carried out in England during recent years. Papers will be read by otologists, physicists, and by representatives of the Ministries of Health and Education. There will also be a demonstration of instruments developed and sponsored by the Medical Research Council and Ministries of Health and Education, including hearing aids, group hearing aids for use in schools for the deaf, pure-tone and other audio-The Conference is open to all otologists, who are cordially invited by the Committee.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF OTOLARYNGOLOGISTS

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 4TH, 1949

The Honorary Secretary reported that the British Medical Association was negotiating with the Ministry over the question of leave to attend conferences, reimbursement of expenses in connection with such attendance, study leave, etc.

The question of work for Local Education Authorities was discussed at length. It was agreed to write to the Ministry of Health expressing extreme concern at the failure of the Ministry and Education Authorities to clarify the position as between Local and Education Authorities and the National Health Service. It was decided to try and obtain an assurance from the Ministry that otolaryngologists undertaking this work during the interim period would be paid for it whether or not it was in excess of the maximum number of sessions per week.

General Notes

A letter was received from a Member regarding a directive from the Ministry of Health stating that the Medresco aid was the only type of electrical aid to be made available under the National Health Service and that Hospitals should discontinue their former practice of giving representatives of commercial hearing aid firms access to the hospital premises and the opportunity to display their own aids to patients. It was decided to send a protest to the Ministry of Health pointing out that no one aid was likely to suit every patient suffering from a similar type of deafness and that in the best interest of the patient it should be possible for an aid other than the Medresco to be supplied if found to be more suitable. It was also agreed to suggest that a grant towards the cost of any such aid equivalent to the value of the Medresco should be made and that patients should be entitled to receive battery service for these aids. It was reported that the Otolaryngologists Group Committee of the British Medical Association had been discussing the question of hearing aids and had decided to press for provision of batteries for those sets already being used by patients even if they might not be Medresco.

It was decided that a token grant of £20 should be given from the Association's funds towards a course of lectures to be arranged jointly by the Institute of Laryngology and the Royal College of Surgeons at the latter institution. There would probably be some nine lectures a year given by prominent otolaryngologists or medical men in closely parallel branches of medicine on subjects bearing on otolaryngology. These lectures would be designed to be of such a standard that they would interest not only the trainee but also the established specialist, and even the senior specialist desirous of acquainting himself with recent advances. The grant was made on condition that the Royal College of Surgeons would permit all members of the Association to attend the lectures free of charge.

OBITUARY

WE regret to report the recent death of Professor Ernst Schmiegelow of Denmark, at the age of 93. He was a pioneer in the field of otolaryngology and was largely instrumental in inaugurating the first international Otolaryngological Congress which was held in Copenhagen in 1929 and of which he was President.

Contributions to Aviation Otolaryngology

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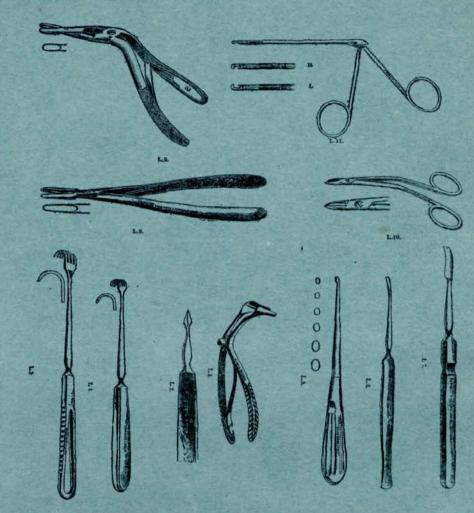
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