

News, Notes and Queries

spontaneous generation of organisms, the work of Pasteur, and the two special Congress lectures, 'Recherche scientifique et personnalité' (by Marcel Florkin) and 'Mathematics, music and medical science' (by Alistair Crombie).

The papers were delivered in simultaneous sessions and while there was comparatively little overlap of biology and chemistry, this, unfortunately, was not so for some of the background information which made the Congress especially worthwhile to a medical historian. For example, information on an index of mathematical instrument makers (who also made scales and other instruments), trade cards as source material in the history of science (such cards are equally important for the history of medicine), and increasing interest in industrial archaeology (relevant to the pharmaceutical industry).

The large number of papers will be published in due course (the formal colloquia papers have already appeared, published by the Centre International de Synthèse, volume 89, Paris, 1968). With the International History of Medicine Conference, which was held a few weeks later, receiving about the same number of communications, the problem of keeping abreast with, and assimilating, research into the history of medicine is becoming more and more acute.

J. K. CRELLIN

OSLER MEDICAL LIBRARY

Dr. Fred B. Rogers has been elected to the Board of Curators of the Osler Medical Library at McGill University, Montreal, Canada. Dr. Rogers is Professor of Preventive Medicine at Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa., U.S.A.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE XXI INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE

The 21st International Congress of the History of Medicine was held in Siena from 22 to 28 September 1968, with the President of the Italian Republic as its patron. Professor Adalberto Pazzini, the President of the International Society of the History of Medicine, served as President of the Congress, with Professor Luigi Stroppiana as Secretary-General, and a distinguished Committee representing most of the medical faculties of the Italian universities, as well as the civic authorities of Siena.

The medieval city of Siena provided a perfect setting for such a meeting and the pageantry of the grand opening in the thirteenth-century City Hall emphasized its historic character. The city authorities had clearly co-operated to the full in the organization of the Congress, which was notable for the warmth of the hospitality provided and the interest of the excursions to historic sites.

Nearly 500 members from 38 countries attended the Congress, including 19

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members from the United Kingdom. The scientific sessions continued in the University throughout the week on the following themes:

Medieval contributions of Tuscan medicine

Medicine and Art in the Middle Ages

Medical relations of Italy with other nations

The evolution of medicine with particular regard to nosology, pathogenetic mechanism and the concept of specificity during the past hundred years

The evolution of the dental art.

As there were over 400 papers to be read, the meetings were arranged in parallel lecture rooms, with five sessions running at the same time.

The General Assembly of the International Society was convened on the evening of 25 September and at a long meeting the national delegates of every country represented paid tribute to the excellence of the organization, to the friendly atmosphere of Siena and to the wide range of interest of the papers. A resolution was passed unanimously by the Assembly that a course in the history of medicine should form part of the medical undergraduate training everywhere (as was still not the case in some countries) and national delegates were charged with the responsibility of bringing this resolution before the competent authorities in their individual countries. The invitation to hold the 22nd Congress in Bucharest in September 1970 was confirmed, and an invitation from the British Society of the History of Medicine to hold the 23rd Congress in London in 1972, conveyed by Dr. F. N. L. Poynter, was unanimously approved. Professor Maurice Bariety, of the Hôtel Dieu in Paris, was elected President of the International Society in succession to Professor Pazzini.

At the formal opening of the Congress, Professor Pazzini had been awarded the new international prize—the Golden Aesculapius presented by the Italian Academy for the history of the Healing Arts—for his services to research and scholarship in the History of Medicine, and before it adjourned the General Assembly formally congratulated its President on this outstanding award.

THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE HISTORY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Sponsored by the German Veterinary Medical Society (Department of the History of Veterinary Medicine), this meeting will be held on 8 and 9 May 1969 in the Tierärztlichen Hochschule, Hannover. This year it is proposed to introduce discussions on allied subjects and specific scientific problems. Less time will be devoted to reports or papers so as to permit fuller expression of all points of view by the participants.

The three papers to be presented are:

1. The purpose of the history of veterinary medicine and its scope.
2. Review of published work on old veterinary medical manuscripts.
3. Representations of animals in two monuments in the Canton of Graubünden.