News and Comment

CONGRESS OF FRENCH DERMATOLOGISTS AND SYPHILOLOGISTS

A congress of French speaking dermatologists and syphilologists will be held in Paris, June 6 to June 8, 1922, at the St. Louis Hospital, under the auspices of the French Society of Dermatology and Syphilology. Membership in the congress will be extended to members of national societies of dermatology and syphilology, and to other physicians who are accepted by the Organization Committee. The membership fee is 60 francs. Applications and remittances should be sent before May 15 to the Secretary General, M. le Dr. Hudelo, 8 Rue d'Alger, Paris. Titles of proposed communications with abstracts should be sent to him before May 1.

Correspondence

"PHENOLPHTHALEIN ERUPTIONS"

To the Editor:—In the March number of the ARCHIVES OF DERMATOLOGY AND SYPHILOLOGY appears my discussion on the paper on "Phenolphthalein Eruptions" by Drs. Wise and Abramowitz. The proof of my remarks, which were published as received from the reporter, was sent to me during my absence in Europe and was not corrected. So many errors of omission and commission have crept in that I ask the privilege to publish the corrected version. Page 318, second line, should read: In 1914 Schuhmacher published in the *Dermatologische Wochenschrift* an article on "Arsphenamin, a True Dyestuff." He stated that if the urine of a patient who has received an injection of arsphenamin is mixed with a reagent and filtered through charcoal, the clear filtrate does not show the arsphenamin reaction any more. This means that the arsphenamin in the urine has been absorbed by the charcoal, a physical property which is common to nearly all organic dyestuffs. Chemical properties (the presence of one or more aromatic nuclei and of a so-called chromophore) confirm this view. If this is true, arsphenamin, phenolphthalein and antipyrin belong to the same group. Dr. Schamberg, to whom I spoke about this, does not share the view that arsphenamin is a dyestuff. I, myself, am not sufficiently versed in chemistry to decide this question. It remains, however, a fact that these drugs are aromatic compounds which contain a benzene ring as a nucleus. I believe that this benzene ring is responsible for the eruption.

The experiments which the essayist has in mind have been made in my service. A patient with a fixed arsphenamin eruption has been given phenolphthalein and a patient with a phenolphthalein eruption has been injected with arsphenamin—with negative results.

On page 320 it should read:

I have seen two cases of arsphenamin eruption identical with the phenolphthalein eruption pictured by Dr. Wise. The one case, to which the essayist refers, was presented by Dr. Chargin the day after the injection. The pigmentation was then not as marked as it was two or three days after each injection. Neither of these patients had taken phenolphthalein.

HERMAN GOLDENBERG, M.D., New York.