PERMANENT COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY CONGRESSES.

A MEETING of the above Commission was held at Baden Baden on the 4th June 1911, the following members being present: Lydtin (President), Hutyra, M'Fadyean, Degive, Tuleff, Happich, Hess, von Ratz, Kjerrulf, Locusteanu, Schimmel, Barrier, and de Jong (Secretary).

The agenda for the meeting included the following:—

(1) Minutes of the last meeting and report regarding the work of the Bureau.

(2) Information regarding the constitution of the Commission.

(3) Constitution of the Bureau.

(4) Communication of the views and resolutions of the Ninth Congress regarding the work of the Commission and of the Tenth Congress.

(5) Preparations for the Congress in London.

(6) Views and propositions of the members of the Commission.

The President in opening the proceedings mentioned that several members had wished a meeting of the Commission to be held the previous autumn, but the majority had preferred the period of Whit Monday. In any case it was desirable to meet in 1911 in order to bring definitely to a close the work of the preceding Congress at The Hague. Actually more than a third of the members of the Commission were present, and therefore any resolutions arrived at by the meeting would be valid. The President mentioned the names of members who had excused their absence, and referred in feeling terms to the loss of two honorary members of the Congress, viz., Professor Robert Koch and M. Arloing. He added that, as he was himself ill at the time, he had invited M. Arloing to represent the Commission at the ceremony commemorative of Professor Koch which was held in Berlin in December 1910. Three months later M. Arloing, who was one of the Vice-Presidents, was himself removed by sudden death. In that case the President had represented the Commission at the funeral of their learned confrère.

At the jubilee of Professor Schütz Professor Hutyra, the Vice-President, had been good enough to represent the Commission, but unfortunately at the jubilee of Professor Dammann no member of the Bureau had been able to go to Hanover to represent them. The President had written to express the sympathy of the Commission with these celebrations.

In conclusion the President stated that in conformity with the statutes of the Commission he had been obliged to decline the request to organise an international congress on the occasion of the Congress of Hygiene at Dresden in 1911, and he added that the management of the baths at Baden Baden had placed at the disposal of the members present the right of admission to the fêtes to be held during the Whit Monday holidays.

Passing to the agenda for the day, the President informed the meeting regarding the steps which had been taken in France in order to obtain a worthy successor to M. Arloing. Although the elections ought to be made by the future Congress, the Commission could make a provisional election, and the President was glad to be able to say that M. Barrier was the candidate put forward by the French Government and the French veterinary societies.

M. Barrier, having been elected by the Commission, received the congratulations of the President, and in returning thanks said that he would do everything in his power to further the work of the Commission. At the same time he conveyed to the meeting the salutations of M. Chauveau.

The President then requested the Secretary to read extracts from the minutes of the three preceding meetings.

M. Degive referred to a communication by M. Leclainche which had appeared in the *Revue Générale de Médecine Vétérinaire* regarding alleged irregularities on the part of the Permanent Commission and the organisers of the Congress at The Hague.

M. Barrier thought that too much importance ought not to be attached to the matter in question, because the communication represented only the personal opinion of M. Leclainche. M. Hutyra said that M. Leclainche's article had not been contraverted, and he begged the Dutch members to offer some explanation.

M. de Jong said that the Executive Committee at The Hague had insisted on the acceptance of the regulations for the Congress *en bloc* at the opening meeting of the Congress, because without such approbation the Congress would have been working without any regulations. The Permanent Commission at first opposed this, as they wished the regulations to be considered at the closing meeting. In the end a practical solution had been found, the President consenting to accept the regulations provisionally at the opening meeting on condition that they should be afterwards discussed at the closing meeting of the Congress. All difficulties had thus been avoided. M. de Jong had written a letter of protest to M. Leclainche, who had replied that it was not his intention to accuse anyone, and that the passage in his article had been written with a special object.

The President thought that it was necessary to have regulations for the Congress at The Hague, and that the most practical method at the outset was to pass regulations with regard to the matter.

M. Degive put some categorical questions to M. Schimmel, and the replies of the latter decidedly negatived the view that there had been any irregularities.

Before entering on the discussion of the second subject on the agenda for the day the President said that the Permanent Commission and the Executive Committee were two different bodies, and that it was not necessary that one person should hold the office of secretary to both, although, by an accident, that was the case at The Hague. A divergence of views between these two bodies did not signify an absence of collaboration. At The Hague the Executive Committee had collaborated with the Permanent Commission, and it was the right and the duty of the latter to offer useful criticism. He wished once more to take cognisance of the fact that at The Hague very valuable work had been done in the interests of the profession and of science. What had been done in that connection by the organisers of the Congress merited praise, and he took the opportunity to offer their thanks to MM. Schimmel and de Jong.

M. Schimmel thanked the Commission and also the President and Secretary.

M. de Jong also returned thanks, more especially to the President, who had always seconded his efforts in very difficult circumstances.

The Secretary read the list of the members of the Commission.

On the proposal of the President the third subject on the agenda for the day, viz., the election of the Bureau, was postponed until the afternoon sitting, and the Commission proceeded to consider the fourth subject, viz., the views and resolutions of the Ninth Congress. According to one of these resolutions the Commission had to consider the question of establishing an International Commission for dealing with tuberculosis in animals and eventually to formulate a proposal to the next Congress. The meeting thought it desirable to nominate a reporter to study the question, such reporter to have the right to confer with different specialists. M. de Jong was nominated reporter on the subject.

With regard to the Resolution Section I., III., 9 (disinfection of railway wagons), it was decided to appoint as a committee to consider the subject MM. Hess, Schnürer, and Ostertag, and M. Martel if M. Ostertag did not accept. The report of the meeting of the committee to be presented to the Congress in London.

Resolution Section V., I., 1 (regulations regarding over-sea transport of animals). The meeting appointed as a committee MM. Stockman, Rickmann, Hoogkamer, and van Es.

It was decided that the invitations to join these committees should be sent by the Secretary in the name of the President.

The other opinions and resolutions of the Ninth Congress which had a special interest for the Commission or for the future Congress had already been given effect to or they will appear in the programme of the Congress in London.

M. Hutyra expressed the opinion that at the Congress in London it would be desirable to avoid formulating conclusions which lost their value on account of their great length. He and M. von Ratz recommended the organisers of the London Congress to put on the programme only questions that were important.

M. Barrier wished to call attention to the difficulty which might arise in cases in which those who had been invited to act as reporters did not send in any report, and M. Hess referred to the inutility of allowing speeches of too great a length and of reports which did not treat of the question under consideration.

The President read a telegram from M. Piot excusing his absence, and another from the French Minister of The Hague announcing the name of M. Barrier as the French delegate.

At the afternoon sitting of the Commission the first business considered was the election of the Bureau. M. Lydtin, the President, intimated that on account of his age and the state of his health he did not wish to be proposed as a candidate. M. Degive, however, asserted that he was interpreting the views of all present in saying that it would be in the interests of the Congress and of the Commission to re-elect with unanimity their venerated and very active President. In view of the general applause with which this proposal was greeted, M. Lydtin agreed to accept the office of President, and thanked the members for their confidence.

M. Lydtin proposed as Vice-President M. Hutyra, who had already held this office, and whom he designated as his future successor. This was carried unanimously, and M. Hutyra returned thanks. The President had thought of M. Bang as second Vice-President in place of the late M. Arloing, but as M. Bang did not attend the meetings of the Commission he said that M. Degive appeared to be a very suitable candidate, and that perhaps M. Barrier, being French, was still better qualified to succeed M. Arloing. M. Degive advocated the election of M. Barrier, but the latter, while expressing his warm acknowledgments, said that he was the junior member, and M. Degive had the greater right to the office and would be a worthy Vice-President. He therefore proposed M. Degive, and this was carried unanimously.

M. de Jong was re-elected as Secretary, and M. von Ratz as Joint Secretary and Treasurer. Both of these gentlemen returned their thanks for the honour.

The President then called on Sir John M'Fadyean, who said that certain provisional arrangements with regard to the holding of the next Congress in London had already been made, and that it was his intention to have a meeting called at an early date at the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. The question of financing the Congress had been the subject of consideration, and it appeared probable that they would be able to raise the necessary funds.

It was their intention to choose the subjects to be discussed at the Congress with every care, and in that connection they would bear in mind the suggestion which had been made by M. Hutyra. He desired to ascertain the views of the Commission as to what would be the most convenient time for holding the Congress. He suggested that the last week in July, which formed the close of the London season, would be the best, or alternatively, the first week in August. He thought that the month of September would be too late. With regard to the funds necessary to carry through the work of the Congress, he mentioned that they would not receive any Government subsidy, but, on the other hand, he believed that the members of the profession in Great Britain would subscribe liberally. The Commission resolved to fix provisionally the date of the Tenth Congress for the end of July or the beginning of August 1914, and the President thanked Sir John M'Fadyean for the information which he had given them.

The President then called on M. de Jong, who wished to raise a question of much importance.

M. de Jong said that he spoke with considerable hesitation. He had hoped to be able to make in the interests of the Permanent Commission a proposal which would be warmly approved by all the members, but from what he had learned that day he feared that in that matter he was likely to be disappointed, and that perhaps it would be preferable to abstain from making the proposal which he had in mind. Nevertheless, he wished to make known to them the idea which had been formed at The Hague, and which had obtained the approval of His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture for the Netherlands.

The accounts of The Hague Congress would probably show a surplus of about 2500 Dutch florins—a result which was due to an extraordinary subsidy which the Dutch Government had given to the Executive Committee, fearing that the ordinary grant would be insufficient. The idea had occurred to the Executive Committee at the Hague to take the necessary steps in order that this sum might be available for the Permanent Commission, and more especially for its Secretariat. The latter might be fixed at The Hague, following the example of the Permanent Commission of the International Medical Congresses. The Hague was becoming more and more the seat of international corporations, and it seemed to be in the interests of the organisation of the Permanent Commission and of the International Congresses that the Secretariat and the archives should be located in some definite office and place. If the Government of the Netherlands were disposed to favour the idea of obtaining an office at The Hague, and at the same time the functions of a Secretariat, the Executive Committee of the Congress would probably have handed to them the surplus of 2500 florins to be employed in paying the first cost of the installation of the Secretariat. All that would be in the interests of the Commission, which would then have obtained a special office for its Secretariat, while the latter would possess its own proper premises under the patronage of the Dutch Minister of Agriculture.

In reality, the Netherlands Minister of Agriculture was disposed to favour the idea, and he had authorised M. de Jong to say that if the Secretariat of the Permanent Commission were installed at The Hague His Excellency would give his patronage to it, and also to the meetings of the Commission in the event of these being sometimes held at The Hague. Subject to the same conditions, the Executive Committee of the Congress would place the sum of 2500 florins at the disposal of the Permanent Commission.

The Minister would also put at the disposal of the Commission an office in which would be deposited its archives and its library, and in case of any meetings of the Commission being held at The Hague the necessary accom-

modation would also be provided. The Minister would also extend his patronage to the correspondence of the Commission if the latter required his support. But, apart from such support, the Commission would remain independent in its divisions and movements.

Unfortunately, although the initial proceedings in the matter had been taken some months previously, His Excellency's letter was not received until the 31st May, and thus had only been in possession of the Secretary for four days. There was therefore absolutely no time to have the question placed on the agenda. That, however, did not appear to be indispensable, in view of Article 13 of the Statutes of the Commission, which allowed them to consider propositions which were not included in the programme of the meeting provided they received the support of a third of the members present. The Secretary stated that he had that day communicated his idea on the subject to the President, and as a result of the conversation he had the honour to move the following propositions:—

(1) That the Permanent Commission approve of the formation of a Secretariat as a permanent institution, possessing its own office and funds, and, if necessary, its own staff.

(2) That the Commission accept the offer of the Executive Committee of The Hague Congress to employ the surplus from the Ninth Congress for the installation of the Secretariat at The Hague.

(3) That, subject to the approval of the Governments who have sent delegates to the Commission, the Commission accept the offer of the Minister of Agriculture for the Netherlands to patronise the installation of the Secretariat at The Hague, especially in the interests of international correspondence.

M. Barrier enquired whether in accepting the proposition the Commission would remain independent, and if the funds necessary for the correspondence would be at the disposal of the Commission. M. de Jong replied in the affirmative.

M. Hutyrá, while recognising the advantages of the proposition, thought that they could not deal with the matter since it had not been put on the agenda for the meeting. They had to consider three questions: (1) Whether it was necessary for the Commission to have a fixed office; (2) if so, in what town; and (3) if the Governments who had sent delegates to the Commission would be in favour of the proposition. He himself had no authority from his Government on the question, and therefore he could not vote on the matter. He begged the Dutch delegates, in the first instance, to circulate their proposition to all the members of the Commission, after which the matter could be discussed.

In the course of the discussion which followed, MM. Hess, Kjerrulf, and M'Fadyean said that they also had no power to vote on the proposal, as they had received no definite mandate from their Government. M. Degive said that he was not quite clear as to what would be the consequences of the proposition.

M. de Jong was unable to understand the objections raised by M. Hutyrá and others. He had not received the communication from his Minister until the 31st May, and therefore he had not been able to place the matter on the programme for the meeting. Moreover, it ought not to be forgotten that at Budapest the Commission itself had been created without any previous proposition, although none of the delegates had had any special mandate from their Governments. According to M. Hutyrá's view, therefore, the Commission itself had been illegally founded. The special point, however, was that there was nothing to be feared and much to be hoped from the results of the present proposition. Owing to its situation The Hague was the seat of many international bodies, such as the International Court for Arbitration,

with its Palace of Peace. It might be that if they did not accept the 2500 florins the opportunity to obtain such a sum would not occur again, as the Executive Committee at The Hague would be obliged to divert it to another purpose, since it represented an *extraordinary subsidy*, separate from the ordinary funds of the Congress. The patronage of the Minister of Agriculture would be of great importance for the Commission. The Permanent Committee of the Medical Congresses had its Secretariat at The Hague, and it would be very regrettable if that Committee, which was their junior, took this step in advance of the Veterinary Committee. M. Locusteanu said that he saw no reason for hesitating, while M. von Ratz gave some information regarding the origin of the Permanent Committee of the Medical Congress. M. Schimmel was astonished at the unexpected opposition to a proposal which offered nothing but advantages. M. Barrier accepted the proposition of the Dutch members, because under it the Permanent Commission would remain entirely independent; he would not like to allow such an advantageous opportunity to pass, and he saw no good reason to refuse the generous offer of the Netherlands Government.

The President then put to the vote the question: "Is there any opposition to the formation of a fixed Secretariat?" The result was that seven members voted for a fixed Secretariat, four against it, and two members did not vote. M. Hutyra then brought forward his proposal that the question should not be considered until after notice had been given to all the members of the Commission. This motion was rejected—six voting for and seven against it. The President then put separately to the vote the three parts of the proposal of M. de Jong, with the following results:—

The first part was accepted by seven votes and six abstentions.

The second part was accepted by six votes and seven abstentions.

The third part was accepted by seven votes and six abstentions.

Thus the whole of the proposal was carried. Several of those who had abstained from voting declared that personally they were in favour of the proposal.

The programme of the meeting being now exhausted, the President thanked the members for their attendance, and the sitting came to a close after M. Barrier, on behalf of the members, had in very cordial terms thanked the President for his services in the chair.

DR LYDTIN, *President*.

D. A. DE JONG, *Secretary*.