

Original Articles.

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE RECENT INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS IN PARIS.¹

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In whatever I may have to say I am largely forestalled by the excellent reports of the congress published in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* during August, September and October.

The recent International Medical Congress is numbered thirteen in the series of International Congresses that have been held. The first, like this last, met in Paris during an exposition year. French physicians were contemplating arrangements for the annual gathering of their National Medical Association in 1867, when it occurred to the executive committee that it might be agreeable and becoming to ask a number of foreign physicians likely to visit the exhibition to attend the sessions of the association. Forthwith, invitations were sent out and several foreign vice presidents appointed. Fully 500 gentlemen from outside of France responded to this cordial request. The meeting was such an eminent success that Dr. Pantaleoni, of Italy, suggested it should be considered the first of a series of meetings held from time to time, to be known as the International Medical Congress. The suggestion met with universal favor, and accordingly it was voted that the second congress should meet in Italy in honor of Dr. Pantaleoni's nationality, two years hence, in 1869. Rome at this time was still under papal supremacy, so Florence was selected, that there might be no embarrassment to Protestant nations. Then came the Franco-Prussian War, and we find the third meeting postponed until 1873 at Vienna, following which the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh occurred at intervals of two years at Brussels, Geneva, Amsterdam and London, respectively. All proved interesting to a constantly increasing number of attendants, though until that of 1881, in London, the American profession had taken no signal notice of their occurrence. Nearly every one was marked by the announcement of some important step in medicine, so that a study of the proceedings of these congresses during their existence will acquaint one with the main steps in the progress of medicine through these years. I call to mind that of 1875, at Brussels, when the transmissibility of puerperal fever at last became so fully recognized that a series of resolutions were passed recommending the abandonment of large lying-in hospitals; that of 1879, when Lister, with his fresh views upon the significance of antiseptics, was the hero of the hour.

With the meeting in London in 1881 begins the real modern conception of medicine from the new etiological point of view—the importance of the exclusion of pathogenic parasitic life to the health of the individual. Each congress since has left a more or less distinct footprint in the evolution of this conception.

Following London were the meetings at three-year intervals at Copenhagen in 1884; Washington, 1887; Berlin, 1890; Rome, 1894; Moscow, 1897, and now Paris, 1900.

Of those preceding this last I have little to say; for

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many reasons, not all of which are wholly creditable to our American profession, the meeting in Washington in 1887 was the least satisfactory of the series, while that in Berlin in 1890 was one of the most satisfactory—all the world was there, eager, expectant, to see and to listen to the man who might be about to proclaim to all future generations the same relief in that great devastating disease of tuberculosis which Jenner a little less than a hundred years before had made possible in the great curse of his time. Koch spoke, the world hearkened, but, alas, time has not yet proven that his words were prophetic.

Of no less interest were the meetings in 1894 in Rome and 1897 in Moscow. Each denotes an era of progression, the former having for its salient feature the full recognition of the possibilities of serum therapy, while at Moscow, as has been well said, the world first awoke to an appreciation of the high state of Russian medical science.

Before adjournment in 1897, Paris was selected as the next meeting place.

Professor Lannelongue, with Dr. A. Chauffard as secretary, and Dr. Du Floq as treasurer, and an executive board numbering some of the proudest names in French medicine today, such as Bouchard, Brouardel, Raymond and Roux, went diligently to work to inaugurate the congress of this year, that which should be destined to mark the medicine of the civilized world at the end of the nineteenth century. With what success he accomplished his purpose I shall but vainly, I fear, be able to tell you. Whatever the success, however, I am sure he would be the very first to share it with his indefatigable colleagues, especially the secretary, Dr. Chauffard, and the treasurer, Dr. Du Floq.

Perhaps a word in regard to these three men as I saw them may not be out of place. I am sorry I have not good photographs to show you. They convey so much better impressions than mere words, but I have a newspaper print of President Lannelongue which will convey slightly, perhaps, an idea of his personality. It is almost libellous to show it; it does the man such an injustice.

Lannelongue is about sixty years old, heavily built, of florid complexion, with large, laughing, keen brown eyes, set wide apart, an attractive smile; full of dignity and composure, yet alert and vigorous, professor of surgical pathology in the Faculty of Medicine and honored with the distinction of being a member of the Institute as well as of the Academy of Medicine. One rare faculty he possesses—that possessed to such an eminent degree by the late Mr. Blaine—the faculty of remembering face and name of any individual introduced to him. This alone made him a most popular and valuable head, for his geniality and readiness to recognize even the smallest of those presented could but attract and encourage good feelings.

Chauffard is young, perhaps thirty-eight, slight, wiry, active, nervous, full of executive ability, not forgetful of the minutest details. To him, perhaps, more than to any one else, is due the perfect organization of the congress, and for his efforts he has been decorated with the insignia of the Legion of Honor.

Du Floq, the treasurer, is also young, genial, kind, honest, thoughtful of every one, methodical to a degree, the man to whom you would trust your all.

Fortunately, no fixed rules, except of their own making, confined these men in their undertaking, and

they were able to organize the congress along their own lines. The first move, so far as could be seen at this distance, was the selection from each nation of the world of a physician who should become chairman of the national committee of his country, he naming this committee from the leaders of the profession. I need not tell you that Professor Osler of Baltimore was asked to fill this office in America, and that he named the presidents of the leading national associations as his committee.

As in the preceding congresses at Moscow, Rome and Berlin, the numbers responding, especially among foreigners, were very gratifying, and on Sunday, the 5th of August, as many as 6,200 representatives from thirty-four nations of the world had registered their attendance, together with some 3,000 wives, sisters and daughters, an attendance, therefore, on this day of nearly 10,000 persons. Nor is it to be wondered at: not only was it a congress at the end of a century, but it was in connection with a great international exposition of arts and sciences, and, moreover, held in Paris—Paris with its Louvre, its Seine, its Champs-Élysées, its Beaux-Arts, its Notre Dame.

The registration of this large body of people, speaking nearly all the languages of the globe, was done most expeditiously and satisfactorily. In no less a cosmopolitan city would it have been possible. Volunteer students from all nations were stationed behind tables stretched along the arcade bounding the inner court of the École Pratique. Each proclaimed his nationality by a big sign attached to the wall over his head. Each had the subscription list of that nation, and the registration blanks, invitations, tickets, etc., of each subscriber. It all went like clockwork, so careful and painstaking had been the organization.

A glance at these 6,000 names: Two thousand two hundred of them are French, 800 Russian, 600 German, 400 American (that is, from the United States), 300 Italian, 200 British, and notice 108 from Argentine Republic and 43 from Japan. The United States, therefore, stood fourth in respect to numbers, and Great Britain sixth. The latter's low figures are to be easily accounted for by considering the strained political relations of the two countries for the past several years; the Fashoda incident, the warm, ill-concealed, even outspoken sympathy of the English for Dreyfus, and their threats of boycotting the exposition in case he was not pardoned. Then, in their turn, the French caricatures of those sacred to the English hearts, and their pronounced advocacy of the Boer cause.

But why the numbers of Americans should have fallen from 657 present at the tenth congress in Berlin to 412 at the present one is hard to explain. It must be admitted that many in the United States are not believers in the usefulness of International Congresses, while many more perhaps considered that this would be an expensive and uncomfortable year to visit Paris. I am sorry to say I feel that here in New England men were influenced to remain at home by the statements of "Spectator," whose letter appeared in your JOURNAL on March 8, 1900. As I walked the streets of Paris, attended the meetings of the congress, visited the houses of the French, receiving nothing but kindness and courtesy on all hands, I often wondered who this unfortunate individual could be that his life should be cast in such

unhappy lines, why perchance he did not leave the hostile shores rather than stay on only to suffer and to complain. How different his letter from those other letters written some seventy years ago by that enthusiastic, lovable young Bostonian, James Jackson, studying in Paris—letters so full of gratitude for the opportunities afforded, so full of affection for the masters with whom he worked, so full of praise of the privileges of living and enjoying Paris, knowing her language and learning from her great teachers—Louis, Andral, and Chomel. Unhappily, the officers of the French Congress saw the letter and were very much hurt, not only that such an one should have been written, but also that it should have had credence in any American town.

But who are the individuals making up these 6,000 names? I will cite but a few examples. Are they the young, the obscure, the unknown? I need not quote those of France; all the well-known men of this generation are to be found there. Germany: Virchow, von Bergmann, Ebstein, Naunyn. Italy: Golgi, Bianchi, Baccelli. Austria: Albert, Danielski, Kaposi. Great Britain: Lister, MacCormac, Dyce Duckworth, Mayo Robson, Lauder Brunton. United States: Jacobi, Janeway, Bradford, Murphy, Keen, Richardson, Weir, Warren. The leaders of medical thought the world over.

The hotel accommodations of the city proved ample, not only to care for the visiting doctors and their families, but also for the thousands of other people attending the Exposition, and prices, too, contrary to the general prediction, were not excessive. I had a very comfortable room in one of the best hotels, near the Vendôme Column, for twelve francs a day (\$2.40). One could scarce do better here in Boston, even in the midst of summer, and, if one chose the pensions or mere lodging houses, especially in the Latin Quarter, it is remarkable how cheaply one might live. A young friend found lodgment in the most delightful of quarters with the cousin of Victor Hugo, now a charming old gentleman of seventy, who has gathered about him and preserved nearly all of the great novelist's treasures, bric-a-brac, the table upon which he wrote, the ink stand in which he dipped his pen, even the bed in which he slept and the clothes which he wore, and yet in such surroundings and in company of such an intelligent and attractive landlord he paid but three francs a day for his room (sixty cents).

The last ten days of July had been excessively hot both in England and France, but with the advent of August came a cold rain, and throughout the remainder of the summer the weather on the continent of Europe could not have been more delightful. During the week of the congress occasional showers, fresh and cool like the April rains of New England, cleaned the streets and made the necessity of an overcoat at night imperative.

Registration began July 31st, and by noon of August 2d the majority of the members were enrolled. Across the street in the beautiful new part of the medical school each country was provided with a separate meeting place for its national committee and their compatriots. These served as the headquarters of each country where bulletins could be posted or engagements made. This little register kept in the United States room shows the names of many of the American members.

Although the work of the congress was divided

into many sections, the numerous amphitheatres of the medical school, the nearby Sorbonne, and the adjacent hospitals lent themselves most conveniently to their purposes, centralizing the sections for the most part within two or three minutes' walk.

As was admirably appropriate, the dermatologists met at the St. Louis Hospital, where the wards furnished ample resources for the demonstration of many of the most interesting skin affections, and indeed these demonstrations became an essential part of the work of that section. Likewise, the Pasteur Institute was appropriately designated for the Section of Bacteriology and Parasitology, and here Roux, Marmorek, Leveran and others were to be seen constantly in attendance.

The first official business of the congress was the reception by the President of the Republic of the national delegates. These numbered five to ten from each country, and some thirty-four countries were represented. It took place at the Elysée Palace at 10 o'clock on the morning of August 2d. Delegates were bidden to appear in full dress, wearing orders, decorations, etc. For the first time in my life I put on a dress-suit at 9 o'clock in the morning, and I must say I felt much as if I had been out over night. However, this proved one of the most interesting of the official functions of the congress. On arrival at the palace we were ushered into a very large reception room, beautifully decorated in white and gold, and hung with interesting tapestries of the Louis Quinze period. Here we found representatives of other nations gathered. Before the arrival of the President the delegates were grouped together by countries, and then these groups arranged alphabetically in a large semicircle about the room. The United States, under its French name of *Etats Unis*, stood between *Espagne* and *Grande Bretagne*. The sight of this array of 200 or 250 men I shall not soon forget. They were for the most part the leaders of the profession in their respective countries, and their countenances and dignified bearing easily denoted their high positions. Many connected with the army or navy were dressed in full uniform, and all possessing decorations of any sort did not fail to wear them. President Lannelongue in the green embroidered coat of the Institute, with red sash and rapier, von Bergmann most resplendent in orders and medals, Sir Wm. MacCormac, Virchow, Reverdin, Zambaca Pacha, are but a few of those who catch one's eye. Promptly at 10 a most distinguished looking butler, if I may call him such, in powdered hair, velvet coat, silk knee breeches, and white stockings announced in a loud voice "le Président de la République." Emile Loubet entered, escorted and followed by the president, secretary and treasurer of the congress, several of his ministers and a small body guard. Thereupon, Professor Lannelongue stepped forward, presented him to the delegates in a short, formal address, to which he immediately replied, expressing his pleasure in greeting so many distinguished representatives from so many countries.

During all this time our neighbors, the Spaniards, magnificent in dress and decorations, whose presence at our very elbows we could not think of without some little degree of embarrassment, inasmuch as we could but wonder how they looked upon us, their recent conquerors, kept up an incessant noisy, excited conversation. Something had gone wrong with them, and not even President Loubet's words could silence them. Such a nation are they for talk. What must

the Spanish Parliament have been during the trying days of Dewey's victory and Cervera's defeat!

After the President's general greeting, he proceeded within the circle, giving individual welcome to each state, hearing the names and shaking hands with many of the delegates. Arriving at *Etats Unis* he greeted us most warmly, congratulated us upon our country so pre-eminent in its arts and sciences, and bade us hearty welcome as representatives of one great republic to another. Dr. Warren, who happened to be standing nearest him, in a few fitting sentences, and, I am happy to say, in very good French, thanked him for his welcome. It seemed to be noticeable that there was an earnest desire, not only on the part of all the officials of the congress, but on the part of the President of the Republic as well, to give Americans a particularly cordial greeting, and make them feel at home in France.

The first general assemblage of the congress met in the afternoon of this day in the Salle des Fêtes of the exposition, a tremendous auditorium capable of holding 25,000 or 30,000 people, wonderful to look upon from a structural point of view, hexagonal in shape, with very high dome roof and immense galleries on five sides, with the stage or platform on the sixth. Here were seated the delegates in full dress and uniform, as in the morning. The congress opened with a full military band playing the "Marsellaise," and as the moving strains of this spirited national anthem filled the immense space and one looked down upon the thousands of physicians assembled from all over the civilized world, he could but feel the cold shivering of excitement and emotion creep along his spinal marrow. It was really a moment not to be missed. What matter the words of any individual whether they be heard or not? Here was an occasion when one realized perhaps for the first time what it meant to belong to this great body of workers, assembled here from all corners of the earth to learn of one another for the good of humanity. The President of the Republic was to have greeted the congress, but the recent death of the King of Italy and the consequent official state mourning did not allow him to appear on this public occasion, and one of the ministers of state performed the duty. After President Lannelongue's inaugural address, and a few words from Dr. Chauffard regarding the organization of the congress, representatives were called upon to reply for each country.

Some spoke in French, but as a rule they employed the national language of the country they represented. In the absence of Surgeon-General Sternberg, who had been detained on the Pacific Coast with duties connected with affairs in the Philippines, his official representative, Major La Garde, medical director of the army, in the full uniform of his rank, replied in a few well chosen words for the United States. He first alluded to our national admiration, respect, even reverence for the name of Pasteur, the great figure in modern medicine, a true citizen of France. Others following also touched upon the same subject, but none more gracefully than he.

The representative of Canada, Sir Wm. Hingston, received the great ovation of the day; thunders of applause greeted him as he arose, which died away only to be taken up again and again. What was its significance none of us could think; it was sug-

gested that he stood for the Roman Catholic party of Canada, and so the French of the Old Régime. But later it was said that he had been mistaken for Lord Lister, and the round upon round of applause was intended for that famous man. The mistake might well occur, for both are rather tall, distinguished looking men, with shape of head similar, both wear the same cut of beard, both are very gray, but I am not at all sure that the first explanation is not the correct one.

Following these addresses Professor Virchow, in behalf of Germany, and as the great representative of German medicine, read his paper upon "Traumatism and Infection." Still adhering to his early conceptions, he pleaded for greater attention to pure cell pathology, less for the microbic, and instanced the changes taking place in an extra-uterine fetus, where bacteria are presumably absent. The great size of the hall precluded the possibility of any but those immediately surrounding the speaker hearing his venerable words, and so, although one of the oldest and most eminent of medical scholars of the century was speaking, the audience gradually dwindled away, except those within easy reach of his voice.

On the afternoons of August 6th and 9th the second and third general assemblies were held in the large amphitheatre of the Sorbonne, and a beautiful auditorium it is, with its graceful galleries and fine mural decoration from the hands of France's own Chavannes. Large and enthusiastic audiences greeted the speakers representing the five other favored nations of the world. As I have said, Virchow spoke for Germany at the first assembly. Now followed the paper of Pavlov as representative of Russia; Baccelli, of Italy; Albert, of Austria; Burdon Sanderson, of Great Britain, and Dr. A. Jacobi, of the United States. The latter spoke in French, and was listened to with rapt attention, especially by the Europeans. To our shame it seems to me few Americans stood by our national representative at a time when he was responding to the honor conferred upon us by being invited to speak, and when he was doing such credit to our institutions and men, by telling an audience more or less ignorant of us what we had been, what we had come to be, and what was the great outlook for the future, when eyes now turned to the East should be prone to look to the setting rather than to the rising sun. No address received better attention, and none compared in the applause it evoked. That he spoke plainly, even bluntly, there is no doubt, but that he spoke truly is also beyond question. And he deserves our united thanks for the able and creditable manner in which he represented our country.

Before saying his farewell words Professor Lannelongue announced that it had been decided that the Fourteenth Congress should meet in Madrid in 1903 under the presidency of Professor Calleja, and that in behalf of the younger workers it was voted Ramon y Cajal, of Madrid, be given the Moscow prize of \$1,000 for his careful work on the minute structure of the nervous system.

The work of the various sections began on Friday morning, August 3d. I can scarcely attempt even to outline the work here carried on. Each had a long programme which required nearly the whole week, even with morning and afternoon sessions, to complete. If any papers were refused surely the list

presented did not show it, and in this lies the great possible criticism of this congress — possibly all general congresses. Instead of abstracts, each full paper should be submitted to committees from each section who, like editors, should sift the chaff from the wheat and allow only those of real merit to be read; but the duty is a delicate one, and probably no country is yet bold enough to undertake this reform. The whole programme included two hundred and sixty reports and more than one thousand two hundred communications. I will only speak of some of the sections I visited.

In the anatomical section important subjects, such as "Topography of the Brain," "The Ascending Tracts of the Cord," "The Formation of the Cortex," were discussed by no less authorities than Waldeyer, Van Gehuchten and His. In the sections of medical sciences the mooted questions of infection and immunity engaged much attention, and here were to be found the leaders along this line of thought so recently deduced in logical sequence from the developments of preceding years, namely, Grawitz, Buchner, Metschnikoff, Calmette, Rodet, Widal, Chantemesse. Toxins and antitoxins found exponents in Ehrlich and Roux; alimentation in Leube, Ewald, and Le Noir; paludism in Laveran, Grassi, while Behring opened a discussion upon tuberculosis and Borrell upon the parasites of cancer. Baumgarten, Ziegler, Weigert and Marinesco spoke upon inflammation and reparation of tissues.

The discussion upon the pathogeny of gout engaged in by Dyce Duckworth, Ebstein, Le Gendre and others showed how far at variance were still our ideas upon this important subject and how much work was still at hand for the student of physiological chemistry and metabolism.

In no section was the work more thorough or more interesting than that in neurology, presided over as it was by Charcot's successor at the Salpêtrière, Professor Raymond. Here were to be seen the active workers of this intricate branch of medicine — names familiar to you all, Brissaud, Déjerine, Grasset, Marie, Hitzig, Bianchi, Marinesco, Ferrier, Leyden, Kraft-Ebing, Flechsig, and Voisin. A feature introduced at this section, and one most interesting to the members, was a daily clinical demonstration of some subject illustrated by a series of cases brought either from the Salpêtrière or the Bicêtre. The richness of these two hospitals in all forms of nervous disease warrants the statement that these demonstrations were most creditable and instructive.

Surgery, presided over by the venerable but still active Tillaux, was very largely attended, but of the character of the work done I am incompetent to speak. America, so sparingly represented in many other sections, was to be found among the surgical sciences with the names of physicians known to the world. Keen, of Philadelphia, reported his case of ligation of the abdominal aorta; Weir, of New York, suggested a new method of operating in cases of acute appendicitis, and Murphy, of Chicago, spoke upon intestinal obstruction, while Fenger, of Chicago, Young, Cullen, and Gilchrist, of Baltimore, Carl Beck, Palmer Dudley, of New York, and de Schweinitz, of Philadelphia, made themselves heard in their respective branches.

The practical work of French surgeons claimed much attention. Many of their clinics were con-

stantly full of visitors, and here in an informal way surgeons discussed cases and methods, and observed the work of their French brethren.

Particularly full was the clinic of Dr. Doyen, and at the time of my visit I found myself *vis-à-vis* with many of the most eminent and renowned surgeons of the day, watching like students the operations of this man. I almost hesitate to speak of his work. Doyen is perhaps forty years of age, strongly and muscularly built, with high, retreating forehead and deep set eyes. The newspaper cut will give you some idea of his appearance.

The story is that he is owner or part owner of one of the champagne brands, and so a man of very large means. For some years he practised in one of the provincial towns, then as his fame spread and he became more ambitious he moved to Paris, built a hospital in the new part not far from the entrance to the Bois, and there carried on his surgical work. The hospital is a model private institution, with some thirty-five or forty rooms comfortably, even elegantly, furnished, with modern plumbing, heating and lighting. His operating room is at the top of the house, and seems to be very well arranged. In the wall of the room, with door opening outward, is a beautiful sterilizer, whose contents can be reached in a second by assistant or nurse, while above is a fine clock with stop attachments, so that the length of an operation can be accurately timed. Near by are etherizing and recovery rooms, as well as library, museum, and rooms for the demonstration of surgical methods.

In his work Dr. Doyen is ambidextrous, every movement has its purpose, every action tells, but when I say to this audience that I saw him remove a cancer of the breast, clean out the axilla and sew up the wound in exactly *seven* minutes, I am sure you will agree with me that this is not surgery. Surgery, at least in these days, means so much more than mere dexterity in operating; it means deliberation, judgment, care, and especially in such cases as this, *thoroughness*.

After viewing this spectacle of race-track operating we were asked to take places in the next room, where cinematograph pictures of Dr. Doyen performing all sorts of capital operations were reeled off for our instruction, and indeed I am told that no longer is it necessary to cross the ocean to see these interesting representations, that in Chicago in one of the vitascopic exhibits, after a certain hour, ladies are invited to remove themselves, while the gentlemen are regaled with a series of Dr. Doyen's surgical pictures. For the truth of this I cannot vouch, but I know from a truthful gentleman that they are on exhibition in Buda Pesth.

Dr. Doyen is not a member of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris, but that he is treated with consideration, even if not with respect, is shown by the fact that he was allowed to present *seven* different papers in as many different sections of the congress — a résumé of all which, printed by himself, was circulated promiscuously among the thousands of visiting physicians. That he has genius there is no doubt, but that it is mechanical rather than surgical is exemplified by the large exhibition of surgical instruments which he has invented.

The other subject which attracted a great deal of attention was Tuffier's method of operating under spinal anesthesia. Indeed, if one thing rather than

another marked the attention of members of this congress it was this subject, and the manner in which it has been tried throughout the world since this meeting demonstrates clearly to my mind, what I perhaps ought not to say above a whisper here in Boston, namely, that there is felt a universal need for a new anesthetic. That in the minds of many surgeons the old have their strict limitations, and a large and increasing class of cases requires something different. This feeling has been evident for some time, as the tendency more and more to local anesthesia has been witnessed. I cannot think that it is a mere fad of the hour, but rather a genuine need, which this reaching out for new means represents. Tuffier seems not to have priority in the matter, but surely he, more than any one else, has called it to the world's attention. He uses the method boldly and maintains there is little or no risk. In the two cases I saw operated upon there was no question about the profoundness of the anesthesia to pain and although one of the patients showed symptoms of collapse with vomiting and sweating, neither symptom was very urgent nor lasted very many minutes. But this subject has been so largely considered in the medical journals within the last few weeks that I will not speak of it further.

If time permits, a word or two about the entertainment of members. Here, also, the death of Italy's king somewhat interfered with the plans proposed. The first general reception in the Luxembourg Palace proved rather a failure on account of one small oversight. Melancholy Jaques would have arranged it better, for he would have remembered that men and women must have their exits and their entrances. The programme was novel and should have been most delightful, the amount of refreshments would have done for a whole army corps, so lavishly had everything been provided, but as it was a cold night people found it too dangerous to wander about the beautifully illuminated gardens, and so the rooms of the palace became overcrowded, and the fine main stairway with its double row of faultlessly uniformed cuirassiers in plumed helmets became a scene of strife between the ascending and descending throngs. This same scene of strife was more exaggerated at the narrow doorway where the in and out going masses met in full collision like the rush lines of football teams. Finally, the in team obtained advantage and pushed its way along so completely that fully a half hour elapsed before those without could gain entrance.

Many of the presidents of sections gave dinners or receptions to their members. These were delightful, as here men doing the same work met in social intercourse, learning to know the human as well as the scientific side of their colleagues or correspondents.

One of the most enjoyable of the small entertainments at which I was a guest was a luncheon at the house of Professor Lannelongue. Few people were present, and besides Madame Lannelongue only one lady, Mademoiselle Virchow, who with her father was staying with the Lannelongues. Both host and hostess were very warm hearted and genial, and the evident affection and dependency existing between Virchow and his daughter was delightful to observe. Both spoke English fluently, putting me at least at my ease. I scarcely ever hoped to meet on such friendly and intimate terms the great German professor, and I assure you I appreciated the opportunity. Although within a month of eighty years old, he was as bright,

active and interested as a youth, seemed not to know fatigue, and was as direct and forceful in his conversation, and as kind and thoughtful of the younger members present, as is possible to conceive.

In passing I must not forget to remind you that the great feature of entertainment was provided by the Exposition. Time does not permit me to speak of this, though it holds its place in any reminiscences of the congress—an exposition, a credit to the nineteenth century and to France, the like of which has never been seen nor is likely soon again to be repeated.

For the national delegates the dinner given at the Elysée Palace by the President and Madame Loubet was very enjoyable. I wish time permitted me to give you some idea of the sumptuousness and regality of a French presidential dinner. Though the State be republican, surely her ruler is surrounded by all any prince of the blood could desire. But most interesting of all, perhaps, was the President's garden party, at which not only were our members invited, but also members of other congresses then in session in Paris—the press, the students, etc. Fully 10,000 people were entertained, the Shah of Persia included. Representations of dances at various eras were given by a *corps de ballet* from the Opera, and a most delightful and interesting presentation they gave. The stage erected for the occasion under the gigantic oaks of the garden was unusually picturesque, while particularly pretty was the minuet of Louis the Fourteenth.

Of the visiting Americans who are they who enjoyed the most, and in general got the most out of this congress? Surely, I shall say without hesitation, those who understand spoken German and French—not one of such whom I met but was pleased with everything, thankful that he had come, and regretful when it was over. Does it not seem shameful that in these days of ours, when science has become so completely cosmopolitan, especially medical science, and we are so interdependent one nation of workers upon another, that any single individual should be turned out of college with degree of Bachelor of Arts or of Sciences without complete speaking as well as reading knowledge of the three great languages of the time—English, French, and German? In this respect foreign universities, particularly Russian and German, are still far ahead of ours, and to our mortification be it said.

And now you will ask, what was accomplished by this great gathering? It is hard to put one's finger upon any one thing especially. Perhaps no absolutely new discovery was promulgated, perhaps no great knowledge was individually acquired, but the inspiration each one of us received in seeing, hearing, knowing, and being associated with our fellow physicians the world over, many of whose names will live forever in the history of medicine, was profound, and can but serve to stimulate us to a loftier desire to accomplish something useful in our chosen field, and to a further satisfaction in belonging to that noble army of workers whose only desired reward is that they may live to further the ends of civilization by relieving to some extent the ills of mankind.

It seems small and provincial to decry the usefulness of these International Medical Congresses, when the very leaders of our profession have not only commended them in words, but have lent their enthusiastic support by constant attendance and active participa-

tion in the proceedings. The great medical triumvirate of the second half of the nineteenth century have been among the most ardent and vigorous champions of these gatherings—Pasteur, Lister, Virchow. They were present at the first, have been seen at many another, and two of them, at least, were still able to gallantly receive the homage of their fellows at this last meeting. The twentieth century now opens before us. Happy, indeed, if it produces three such men!

THE RADICAL TREATMENT OF LACHRYMAL DISEASES.¹

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THE great majority of cases of epiphora are amenable to the usual conservative treatment which consists of astringent and antiseptic collyria, syringing and probing, and occasional treatment of the nasal cavities. In spite of a judicious selection and skilful application of these methods there remain a considerable number of cases which are not relieved. To this class must be added those cases which might probably be cured, but cannot afford the time and expense of two to twelve months' treatment. A third class comprises those cases on which an operation is necessary, for example, for the extraction of cataract, which would not be safe so long as there is a focus of infection like the lachrymal sac communicating with the conjunctival sac.

In these three groups are comprised the cases for which something more radical must be done, since the prevalent methods are either frank failures or impracticable of application. I repeat that these cases are not rare and unusual, and that the disease is not only very annoying but a constant menace, threatening to cause ulceration of the cornea as the result of some slight abrasion which becomes infected from the discharge, or to cause phlegmonous inflammation as the result of infection of the tissue about the lachrymal sac. Any method of treatment which promises a quick and sure relief from such a condition is certainly worthy of attention.

Such a method, it is claimed, is to be found in extirpation of the lachrymal sac and gland, one or both as may be indicated. The surprising thing is that the operation has not become more common. Described as long ago as 1748, and, indeed, practised by the ancients, it has been practised or suggested by different writers with increasing frequency during the last fifty years, but has never become the fashion in this country. In 1881 40 cases of extirpation of the sac, operated on by Graefe, were reported; in 1889, 25 cases of extirpation of the gland by De Wecker. Since then an average of one to three reports have appeared every year on either sac or gland, nearly all favorable, almost all by European writers. Lawford is the only English, and Holmes, of Cincinnati, the chief American writer whom I have seen. In this vicinity the removal of the lachrymal sac by caustics or dissection, or both, has been practised at long intervals, the removal of the sac and gland apparently not at all. Hence I was inclined to assume that so obvious a method of treatment must have some decided drawbacks, or it would have gained greater vogue. The prejudice against it appears to have been either theoretical, based on insufficient knowledge of physiology,

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