words up in the dictionary. On doing this we found that the word *vix* meant "with difficulty". *Naturae* was easy enough as the genitive of *natura*, but *mediatrix* had us floored. And then as we were wondering whether we should visit Sion House to consult the Vulgate and see if the 'How hardly shall those with riches enter the Kingdom' etc., was rendered *vix*; we suddenly thought of Cullen and his *Vis Medicatrix Naturae* and the problem was solved without any *vix* at all.

We fancy the error was due to the compositor in the first place with faulty proof reading in the second.

**SOCIÉTÉ BELGE D’OPHTALMOLOGIE**

The Fiftieth Anniversary Meeting of the Société Belge d’Ophtalmologie was held in Brussels on September 28 and 29, 1946. It was most satisfying to note that many ophthalmologists from this country attended the Meeting. These included Messrs. Black, Cashell, Cridland, Doggart, King, and Law (the official delegate), Mrs. Miller, Mr. C. Muirhead, Miss Pugh, Mr. Lindsay Rea and Mr. Eugene Wolff.

The Congress opened with an inaugural session in the Marble Hall of the Palais des Académies, which was honoured by the presence of Her Majesty the Queen Mother. Professor van der Straeten gave a presidential address; Professor van der Hoeve spoke on behalf of the foreign delegates. The death of Professor Coppez one month before the Congress was sincerely regretted by all those present, not least by his British colleagues, to whom his name had been one of the foremost in Belgian ophthalmology for so long. He was to have given an account of the activities of the Society since its foundation; his paper was read by his son, Dr. Léon Coppez. The proceedings closed with a paper by Dr. Alaerts on "L’oeil humain dans l’Art", after which the official delegates, amongst others, had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty.

In the evening the banquet was held in the Hôtel Métropole; there was a large gathering, including a number of ladies. The proceedings were informal, but short speeches were made by the Chairman, Professor van der Straeten, the Hon. Secretary, Professor Appelmans, the official delegates and others.

The Congress was continued the next day at the Maison des Médecins. The morning was given over to "Conferences" by the official delegates, and the President, Professor Weekers, gave up the Presidential Chair to Mr. Wolff, who conducted the proceedings with dignity and no small linguistic ability. Professor Beauvieux (France) gave a paper entitled "La cécité apparente du nouveau-né";
Mr. Law (Great Britain) did his French best with a description of "L'ophtalmologie pendant la guerre"; Professor Zeeman (Holland) spoke on "Quelques affections des artères ciliaires"; and Professor Amsler (Switzerland) on "L'humeur aqueuse, cette inconnue . . .".

At the close of the morning session the delegates were each presented with the van Duyse Medal of the Society, and also received the great distinction of Honorary Membership.

The afternoon was occupied by "Communications," many of which were of outstanding interest. The list was as follows:

1. J. Sedan and G. Farnarier (Marseille):—"Blessures oculaires de guerre de 1939 à 1944."
2. G. Renard (Paris):—"Trois cas de guérison de l'ophtalmie sympathique par les injections sous-conjunctivales de solufontamide."
3. E. Wolff (London):—"La couche huileuse du film précornéen."
4. G. P. Sourdille (Nantes):—"Précisions sur la technique des greffes cornéennes transfixantes."
6. R. Onfray, Derot and Quentin (Paris):—"Rétinopathie hypertensive et diabète hypophysaire."
7. R. Lindsay-Rea (London):—"Two cases of retinitis of septic origin." (Projections).
8. S. Schiff-Wertheimer (Paris):—"Rétinite proliférante et clivages de la rétine."
10. M. Pugh (London):—"A short account of orthoptic training."
11. G. E. Jayle (Marseille):—"La biochémie de la production de l'humeur aqueuse."

In addition, two interesting operation films were shown by Professor Barraquer on detachment of the retina and extraction of cataract by suction.

Entertainment for the ladies was provided by a conducted visit to the Maison Chinoise at Laeken and the Musée Colonial at Tervueren, which was well attended and much enjoyed.

Monday, the 30th, was occupied by a visit to Antwerp. The company first visited the historic Maison Rubens, a mansion of much interest full of relics of the great painter. They were next shown round the beautiful Cathedral, which contains many impressive works of the master; lunch was taken at the Hôtel Century, Avenue de Keyser. In the afternoon they crossed the city by motor coach and visited the port, being given an extensive tour by
boat round the vast area of docks. A return to Brussels by electric train completed a most interesting and instructive day.

Such was the official part of the proceedings; but any account would be grossly incomplete which did not mention the private hospitality which was shown to many of us. A charming informal supper was given on the evening of Friday 29, by Dr. and Mrs. Schepens, where many old contacts were renewed. Dr. Hambresin’s large luncheon party on the Saturday will long be remembered by those honoured with invitations; it was a sumptuous repast, the high light being a Vosne Romanée, 1923, served with fitting ceremony and imbied with reverence and delight. Our Belgian friends have wine and serve it; what memories the very names evoked! Dr. Léon Coppez and Dr. Jean Coppez both entertained at lunch on Sunday, and the hospitality and friendly atmosphere were intensely enjoyed. It was a source of very great pleasure for visitors to be entertained in the houses of these Belgian colleagues—an intimate gesture which they much appreciated. In the evening the Honorary Secretary, Professor Appelmans of Louvain, gave a dinner party at the Restaurant Cordemans—a delightful occasion much enlivened by the pleasantry of Dr. René Onfray, Dr. Beauvieux and Dr. Sourdille.

One cannot speak too highly of the pleasure it gave to visit the Belgian capital once again. The welcome and hospitality were overwhelming; it was a Congress which will be ever remembered by those fortunate enough to be there. The post-war recovery is astonishing; the shops are full and the cafés crowded, the people are gay and charming. One looks forward to renewing one’s memories and getting full scientific value by reading the Bulletin in due course, in which it is understood a complete account of both the academic and social activities is to appear.

British ophthalmologists acclam their Belgian colleagues, and offer their congratulations and good wishes to the Société Belge d’Ophtalmologie on this auspicious occasion.

ABSTRACTS

I.—LENS


(1) Reese discusses Gregg’s report about “Congenital cataract following German measles in the mother” published in the Transactions of the Ophthalmological Society of Australia about a severe