The Italian Ophthalmic Society held its third Congress in October of this year at Rome. The Society is the successor of the old Society which expired in 1910. The new Society is receiving universal support from all Italian Ophthalmologists and may anticipate a long and successful career. In addition to the publication of reports of the Congress, arrangements have been made with the Annali di Ottalmologia to issue individual papers. A notable feature of the Society is the number of valuable prizes that have been offered for competition. In the report sent to us the credit of the organization of the Society is given to Professor Cirincione, the well-known ophthalmologist of Rome, and the editor, for many years, of the Annali di Ottalmologia.

The meeting was very well attended and numerous papers of considerable interest were read. We hope to give our readers abstracts of some of these at a later date.

Société Roumaine d’Ophthalmologie

We had occasion to refer in our number of November, 1926, to the foundation of the Society of Ophthalmology in Italy which occurred in the year 1924, and whose proceedings for the year 1925, we have briefly reviewed. We have now to congratulate another country, Roumania, on the foundation of a similar society. The first Congress was held at Bucharest in 1924, but, owing to technical and financial difficulties, their proceedings have only recently appeared. From the introduction to their proceedings we learn that the Society was founded first in 1922. The present volume of transactions is, in large part, taken up with a discussion on trachoma, in which Professor Michail deals with the aetiology, infectivity and pathogenesis of the disease; Professor Hélène Pascariu with the symptoms, diagnosis and clinical forms; Professor Manolesco, the President of the Society, with the frequency in Roumania, its treatment and prophylaxis; and Colonel Panaîtesco with trachoma as it occurs in the Roumanian army. Abstracts of these papers will be found on subsequent pages of this number of our journal.

The founding of these national societies is a sign of healthy life in the ophthalmological world, and will render more easy the task
of re-instating the International Congress to which we all look forward in the near future.

We heartily congratulate Professor Manolesco and his colleagues on their successful initiation.

“The Pre-School” Eye Clinic

The “News Letter” for October, 1926, issued by the National Committee of Blindness, New York, has just reached us, together with several pamphlets dealing with the hygiene of the eye and methods of sight saving classes from the same source; some of which we hope to notice in future numbers.

The report on the pre-school eye clinic, which has been in operation for rather more than a year, is very instructive and shows how much can be done to conserve vision in the very young, thereby increasing their potential value to the State.

The report shows that 225 visits were paid by 93 children of whom 22 were found to be normal with full vision; 5 children had a visual acuity of 20/30, with normal eyes; and 3 had a worse acuity than this with normal eyes; 8 were found to be normal, but the vision is not noted; 15 children were too young to be tested, but had no ocular troubles; 4 cases were referred to hospital for “serious difficulties”; 9 children had conjunctivitis, the nature of which is not stated, but we gather that trachoma did not play any part, and that the eyes were otherwise normal; 13 had strabismus, of whom one was myopic and one had blepharitis. There were two cases each of chalazion and epiphora; and one case each of cataract and chorioido-retinitis. The children were mainly drawn from the neighbourhood of the clinic, but some came from farther afield. We presume that as the existence of the clinic becomes more extensively known, more cases will be sent to it from a distance. The staff consists of an ophthalmologist, a clinic manager, and a clinic assistant.

Notes of three cases of strabismus in which the defective eye improved markedly under treatment are detailed, and the report ends with the intimation that it has been decided to continue its good work for another year.

We have always felt that the establishment of some centre or centres in our large cities and towns which will cater for the eyes of those children who are below the school age and who have no obvious need to attend the eye departments of hospitals was a state of affairs much to be desired; we congratulate the National Committee on the success of the venture and express the hope that the clinic may become a permanent institution.