

ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE OPTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

THE 66th Annual Congress of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom was held at the Royal Society of Medicine, London, on May 30, 31, and June 1. Mr. Charles B. Goulden, O.B.E., M.D., M.Ch., the President, read an address of welcome to guests and members of the Society. The guests from abroad were:—U.S.A. Dr. Arnold Knapp (New York), Bowman Lecturer; Holland—Professor H. J. M. Weve (Utrecht), Dr. E. C. Gravemeyer (Amsterdam); France—Dr. Merigot de Treigny (Paris); Belgium—Dr. Leon Coppez (Brussels), Dr. Leon Bauwens (Antwerp), Madame van Boven (Antwerp) and Dr. Jules François (Charleroi); Switzerland—Dr. A. Franceschetti (Geneva), Dr. B. Semadeni (Davos) and Madame Noelle Chome (Lausanne); Poland—Dr. W. H. Melanowski (Warsaw); Norway—Dr. H. Gjessing (Drammen); Sweden—Dr. Gunnar von Bahr (Uppsala); Chile—Dr. Miguel Millan.

The subject of the Presidential Address was "Johannes Evangelista Purkinje" and Mr. Goulden gave a vivid and interesting biographical sketch of this great scientist of the nineteenth century.

The Bowman Lecture was given by Dr. Arnold Knapp on "The present state of the Intra-capsular Cataract Extraction" a subject on which he is an acknowledged master and enjoys a world-wide reputation. He gave a comprehensive survey of the history of intra-capsular cataract extraction to-date and with characteristic and meticulous accuracy he described and discussed points in the technique of the operation. His lecture was full of wisdom and the fruits of mature experience gained from the practice of surgery for many years. It was a pleasure to listen to his valuable teaching.

The discussion on "Ocular Disturbances Associated with Malnutrition" brought out many points of clinical and scientific interest, some of these controversial. It is remarkable that the ocular changes seen in many ill-nourished prisoners of war in the far East, in particular retro-bulbar neuropathy, were not present in starved prisoners in Europe. Amblyopia coincided with beri-beri and pellagra in Harold Ridley's series. The central scotoma was up to 3° from the fixation point and had steep edges. In those who recovered, the centre of the scotoma cleared first leaving an annular paracentral scotoma. The value of B1, 2, and 6 and liver injections in the treatment of retro-bulbar retinopathy was discussed.

The openers of the discussion were Air Commodore P. C. Livingston and Mr. Harold Ridley, others taking part were Dr. Dean Smith, Dr. B. Marienstrauss, Messrs. Keith Lyle, C. D.

Shapland, R. Lindsay Rea, A. Seymour Philips, W. J. W. Ferguson, A. G. Cross, A. H. Lowther and J. D. Fraser.

The Annual Dinner of the Society was held on May 30 at the Royal College of Surgeons by kind permission of the President, Sir Alfred Webb Johnson, Bt., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., D.S.O., T.D., and the Council of the College. The setting was admirable and the speeches were enjoyed for the wit these contained. Besides the guests from abroad as mentioned above, the following were also guests of the Society:—The Rt. Hon. the Lord Moran, President of the Royal College of Physicians; Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson, Bt., President of the Royal College of Surgeons; Eardley Holland, Esq., President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists; P. H. Adams, Esq., President of the Ophthalmological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine; H. S. Souttar, Esq., President of the British Medical Association; Air Marshal Andrew Grant, Director General of Medical Services, Royal Air Force; Hugh F. Powell, Esq., Master of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London; and Sir Wilson Jameson, Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health.

In proposing the toast of the Society Sir Alfred Webb-Johnson alluded to the history of ophthalmology and remarked that Cheselden was the first surgeon to perform iridectomy (corrected by the President of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom to "iridotomy"), and the College conferred upon Sir William Bowman the Hon. F.R.C.S. Mr. Charles Goulden replied to the toast.

In proposing the toast of the guests Sir John Parsons remarked upon the presence of all three Presidents of the Royal Colleges of Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He allowed his humour full rein in tilting at the "hard-baked cake of custom" in the older of the Royal Colleges which in recent years had suffered some softening from the specialities.

Dr. Arnold Knapp and Air Marshal Andrew Grant, C.B., C.B.E., K.H.S., replied. Sir Arnold Lawson, K.B.E., proposed the toast of the President to which Mr. Charles Goulden replied.

Other scientific and clinical papers were read and we hope that abstracts of these will appear in this Journal at a later date.

A Joint Clinical Meeting with the Ophthalmological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine was held on May 31, and the Annual General Meeting of the Society was on the same day.

