FRENCH OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY, 1949

The Annual Congress of the Société française d'Ophtalmologie was held in Paris at the Marcelin-Berthelot Centre from May 22 to 26. Now that the International Congress of 1950 is almost upon us, it was particularly fitting that a number of British ophthalmologists availed themselves of the opportunity to hear the leaders of French ophthalmology expounding their work. Also gathered together at these meetings were many distinguished ophthalmologists from other European countries, from Asia and Africa, from the United States and South America.

One whole morning session was devoted to discussion of the Report on Hypertensive Uveitis. It will be remembered that the Société française d'Ophtalmologie is accustomed to choose in advance one special subject for the main discussion, and that one or more ophthalmologists are entrusted with the preparation of a written report on this subject. The resulting work is published shortly before the Congress, so that members can become familiar with it before the discussion. M. Marcel Kalt, the principal author of this year's report, was warmly congratulated on his excellent work, which he lucidly introduced at the session of May 24th. Many other valuable contributions followed M. Kalt's opening paper. Papers covering a wide range of subjects were read at the other sessions, and it was delightful to hear so many of the voices with which we have already become acquainted during the last few years at meetings of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom and of the Section of Ophthalmology of the Royal Society of Medicine, and also at the Royal College of Surgeons. Instances which leap to mind in this connection are Professor A. Franceschetti, Drs. H. Arruga and J.-I. Barraquer, Professor G.-P. Sourdille and Dr. L. Pauifique. Papers in the French language were also delivered by Mr. Frank W. Law and Mr. E. Wolff.

Two afternoons were devoted to clinical and operative demonstrations at the hospitals of Paris and its suburbs. Mr. T. Keith Lyle contributed to this part of the programme a talk on the orthoptic treatment of latent and manifest squint. A number of excellent films were also shown. Several of the visitors from Great Britain were conducted round the Hôpital St. Joseph by M. P. Mérigot de Treigny, who has proved himself a good friend to British ophthalmologists, unofficially as well as in his official capacity of Secretary-General to the Société française d'Ophtalmologie.

M. Edouard Hartmann has now succeeded M. Mérigot de Treigny as Secretary-General, and he certainly deserves the sincere gratitude of British visitors to the French Congress, on account of all that he did to make them feel welcome. Nor must it be forgotten how
largely the success of this gathering owed to the generous entertainment of the ladies. Thus Madame G. Rennard and her eminent husband kindly invited us to a party at their country house near Malmaison after the official expedition to Napoleon’s villa. Madame P. Mériot de Treigny, Madame E. Hartmann and Madame S. Vallon also offered delightful hospitality. Others too numerous to mention played a part in making us welcome and putting us at ease.

Sir Stewart Duke-Elder presided at the Annual Dinner on May 24, and made his after-dinner speech in fluent French. The subsequent speakers were M. M. Appelmans (Louvain), M. M. Alvaro (Sao Paulo), Professor B. Streiff (Lausanne) and Professor V. Rossi (Pisa). The following British ophthalmologists attended the Congress: Mr. G. T. W. Cashell (Reading), Miss E. E. Cass (Gibraltar), Mr. J. H. Doggart (London), Mr. E. A. C. Drécourt (Jersey), Sir Stewart and Lady Duke-Elder (London), Mr. A. C. Houlton (Oxford), Mr. E. F. King (London), Mr. Frank W. Law (London), Mr. J. P. Lloyd (Oxford), Mr. T. Keith Lyle (London), Mr. A. F. MacCallan (London), Mr. J. Minton (London), Mr. E. S. Philips (London), Mr. F. A. Williamson-Noble (London), Mr. E. Wolff (London), and Mr. E. Zorab (Southampton).

NOTES

AMONG the recipients of Birthday Honours was Mr. T. Keith Lyle, who was awarded the C.B.E. for his services as Consultant in Ophthalmology to the Royal Air Force. We offer congratulations to him on this well-deserved recognition.

In accordance with a scheme approved by the Trustees, an allocation of £4,000 per annum has been made for the award of travelling fellowships or grants in furtherance of the objects of the Fund, which are defined as being for “the prevention and cure of blindness and deafness in the United Kingdom and British Empire, and in particular research in connection therewith by financing medical men and students within the Empire to study methods and practices in all countries of the world.” These awards will be made primarily for research in ophthalmology and otology, for periods of up to a year, but grants may also be given for short-term visits abroad to study new methods of investigation and treatment in these fields.

These funds will be administered by the Medical Research Council, and applications should accordingly be addressed to the Secretary, at 38 Old Queen Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1.