"Ladies first" sums up the truth about the 16th International Congress of Ophthalmology. Congresses exclusively male are as desolate as Hamlet without the Ghost. Valiantly as the misogynists may struggle to make a success of it, most of the stranded males moon about in anticipation of their journey home-ward. It may therefore be placed on record that the wives and daughters of our Congress visitors were welcome not only for their own charming selves, but also because they made the men more radiant, more truly congress-minded.

Nobody alive could fairly apportion the credit due to those ladies who planned for the Congress. Paid staff and voluntary helpers alike, they set to work with a loyalty never to be forgotten. In the days immediately before the Congress, their tasks mounted to a pressure-peak which persisted until the closing ceremony. Some worked far into the night, and the missing of meals became almost habitual to them. Separate mention of all who forwarded the social schemes might well be embarrassing and invidious, but one exception to this rule must surely be admitted, and that is Lady Duke-Elder.

It would be interesting to speculate how many miles the
President of the Congress and his wife covered within this eventful week, but still more interesting is the observed fact that they never appeared to be in a hurry, nor did they ever cease to convey their sense of joy at the presence of friends informally circulating. Further reference will presently be made to Sir Stewart Duke-Elder's performance of his presidential duties, but he himself would be the first to proclaim how much his path was made smooth by the devoted help of Phyllis. One characteristic manifestation of Lady Duke-Elder's personality was her readiness to praise and encourage all those who were playing a part in Congress business. Such tokens of gratitude made people feel that it was a privilege to help. Thus Lady Duke-Elder directly benefited the Congress by her own exertions, as well as working indirectly, through the enthusiasm with which she animated others.

**Bowman Memorial Service**

On Sunday, July 16, the day before the Congress was declared open, the Venerable C. E. Lambert, Archdeacon of Hampstead, officiated at a special service held in St. James's Church, Piccadilly, London, to commemorate Sir William Bowman, F.R.S., founder of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom. After the service in this bomb-shattered building, Professor J. W. Nordenson of Stockholm, President of the International Council of Ophthalmology, proceeded to the Baptistry, where he laid a wreath at the Bowman memorial tablet. During the service, which was attended by members of the Bowman family, Professor Nordenson paid tribute to the nobility and versatile genius of that great man, particularly stressing his operative skill, and his ability as a teacher. Professor Nordenson also reminded the congregation about a significant meeting between Bowman, Donders, and von Graefe here in London during the year 1851, six years before the First International Congress of Ophthalmology.

Sir Stewart Duke-Elder expressed deep gratitude for Professor Nordenson's gesture of sympathetic understanding, and drew attention to the fact that Bowman was no less remarkable for kindliness and warmth of personality than he was renowned as a clinician, a scientist and a teacher. It was strangely moving, said Sir Stewart, to be standing there in the ruined church where Bowman used to worship a hundred years ago.

**Pre-Congress Week**

For the benefit of the many members and associates who were able to reach England before the Congress, a number of clinical and pathological demonstrations, interspersed with sight-seeing,
had been arranged at various teaching centres in Great Britain from July 10 to 15. Dr. G. I. Scott had contrived a most ambitious programme at his own University and in Glasgow. The visitors also had the chance to gaze at some of the loveliest scenery in Scotland, and to witness the admission of Dr. H. Arruga (Barcelona), Sir Stewart Duke-Elder and Dr. Alan C. Woods (Baltimore) to the fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh.

The North of England tour, which included a visit to York Minster, was in the hands of Mr. W. M. Muirhead, Mr. G. W. Black and Mr. J. Foster. Mr. P. Jameson Evans and Mr. R. D. Weedon Butler were responsible for the Midland tour, and the Southern one was organized by Mr. N. Criddon and Mr. E. C. Zorab. There was also a South-Western tour under the control of Mr. A. G. Palin. Some of the British ophthalmologists who would have participated in these activities were prevented by other engagements, such as examinership in the Diploma of Ophthalmology, or duties in connection with the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association held at Liverpool. Nevertheless these tours formed a happy introduction to the International Congress.

On July 15 the President and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons entertained the members of the International Council of Ophthalmology to dinner in the Council room at Lincoln's Inn Fields. After Sir Cecil Wakeley, P.R.C.S., had delivered a cordial speech of welcome, replies were made by Professor J. W. Nordenson, President of the International Council, and by Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, President of the Sixteenth International Congress of Ophthalmology. On the evening of the following day, a larger invasion of the College premises took place, because the President and Council kindly sanctioned their use for a cocktail party given by several British ophthalmologists, whose guests were able to circulate in the entrance hall, and mount to the Library and Council Room, where many for the first time in their lives filed past the portraits of John Hunter, Lister, Cheselden, and other giants of old.

Opening Ceremony

In the assembly hall of Friends House, Euston Road, London, on the morning of July 17, Sir Stewart Duke-Elder formally requested H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester to open the Sixteenth International Congress of Ophthalmology, and to welcome the delegates and friends throughout the world in the name of the Royal Patrons of the Congress, their Majesties the King and
Queen. His Royal Highness began by reading the following message from H.M. the King:

To the President and members of the XVI International Council of Ophthalmology: As Patrons of the Congress, the Queen and I are glad to welcome to London the delegates who have come from all parts of the world to attend it.

We wish every success to your meeting and trust that, as a result of your deliberations, great advances will be made in relief of blindness and in the alleviation of human suffering.

George R.

The Duke of Gloucester went on to express his pleasure at opening such an assembly, where people could meet to pool their experience and engage in mutual discussion of their problems and difficulties. He recalled that the First International Congress was held at Brussels in 1857, and that none had been held in London since 1872. His Royal Highness then wished success not only for the scientific deliberations of the Congress but also for those moments of relaxation when members would have the chance to get to know each other. Finally he extended a cordial welcome to the delegates, members, and associates coming from over sixty different countries.

On behalf of the International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies and of its Council, Professor J. W. Nordenson, President of the International Council, expressed profound gratitude to their Majesties the King and Queen for having graciously consented to be Patrons of the Congress. He also offered respectful thanks to H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester for having lent distinction to the ceremony of opening. Professor Nordenson went on to announce that the distinguished services to ophthalmology of Dr. H. Arruga (Barcelona) had been judged by the Council to merit the Gonin Medal, instituted by the University of Lausanne and the Swiss Ophthalmological Society in memory of Jules Gonin as a reward for valuable scientific contributions. Dr. Arruga, whose home government elevated him to the rank of Count during the Congress week, then received the medal from the hands of His Royal Highness.

Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, President of the Congress, also declared his deep appreciation of their Majesties’ gracious message of welcome, and thanked H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester for conveying their message, and for coming in person to inaugurate the meeting. After referring to His Royal Highness’ constant interest in medicine and in humanitarian aims, Sir Stewart went on to read the following loyal message in reply to that of their Majesties the King and Queen:
The British members of the XVI International Congress of Ophthalmology beg to offer their loyal and devoted greetings to your Majesties; and all the members of this Congress, representing 64 nations, unite in sending their thanks to your Majesties for your gracious message of welcome. Your patronage of this Congress and your personal interest in our proceedings are indications of those feelings which you share with us for the fullest co-operation among all the nations of the world for a furtherance of knowledge and the relief of human suffering.”

Sir Stewart then proceeded to deliver his Presidential address.

**Presidential Speech.**—“I think it would be of interest if at this opening ceremony we paused for a quarter of an hour to consider where our science of ophthalmology stands in this year which marks the mid-point of the 20th century. I do so because this year constitutes a landmark in the history of our specialty: in a sense a bicentenary, and in a very real sense a centenary. For it can be said that modern ophthalmic surgery is now two centuries old and dates from the achievement of that great Frenchman, Jacob Daviel, oculist to Louis XV, who introduced his operation for cataract in 1747 and communicated his method to the Academy in Paris in 1752. But if modern ophthalmic surgery is approximately 200 years old, this year marks the centenary of ophthalmology as an independent specialty within the larger kingdom of Medicine owing to the genius of a still greater German; for on December 6, 1850, Herman von Helmholtz first demonstrated his ophthalmoscope to the Physical Society of Berlin.

“It is true that three years previously, in 1847, Charles Babbage, an English mathematician—one of whose other claims to fame is that he invented the first calculating machine—invented a similar and indeed more efficient instrument. But since Babbage allowed his ophthalmoscope to lie in his desk for seven years, to Helmholtz must go the honour and the glory of revealing to the world the mysteries of the inner eye, of making ophthalmology an exact science, and of laying the foundation stone of that great structure of knowledge, to improve and add to which is our privilege and our joy, and the purpose of this assembly.

“It is not, of course, true to say that the discovery of the ophthalmoscope by Helmholtz itself revolutionized ophthalmology. We must look upon his achievement in its proper setting; for the decade centred in 1850 was without doubt the most productive and the most exciting in the whole history of
medicine. This was perhaps a reflection of the unrest of the spirit of man which marked a crucial stage in the long political duel between dynasts and democracy throughout Europe. In 1848 the French revolution, dammed back for sixty years by the brilliance and imperialism of Napoleon, burst out again, and from the barricades of Paris sparks flew all over the continent, kindling fires in Italy, Austria, Germany, and beyond, releasing smouldering forces hitherto clamped down, and incidentally directing a stream of immigration to America, fertilizing it with much of the best of its human and spiritual riches.

"About that time, too, amidst this fermentation of social and political ideas, a material revolution was going on apace. Steam railways, introduced in 1825, were now beginning to trace themselves all over the face of Europe. In 1851 the first underwater cable was laid between England and France to introduce the age of electricity. In 1856 the Bessemer process for the making of steel put a new gigantic material framework for human affairs into the hands of man. Within these few years' time, distance and power were transformed, and a stride was made in the material conditions of life greater than in the hundreds of years between the Roman empire and the birth of Napoleon.

"Round about that time, think what events were shaping in medicine. Charles Darwin, writing his 'Origin of Species,' was revolutionizing the whole of biology. Claude Bernard, in Paris, and Carl Ludwig, in Vienna, were laying the foundations of modern experimental physiology. Virchow, in Germany, was similarly building up the great edifice of cellular pathology wherein he showed that the cell was the ultimate unit for the study of pathological process. In London physicians like Bright and Addison were correlating, with the inspiration of genius, the clinical and pathological aspects of disease. In France, Pasteur, in his studies on fermentation, was founding the new science of bacteriology. In Scotland Lister, writing his essay 'On the Nature of Inflammation,' was giving birth to the idea of asepsis which was to transform the face of surgery and thereby save more lives than have been lost in battle since there were records of war, a transformation in no small measure aided by the introduction of anaesthesia—either by Morton in 1846, in Boston, and chloroform by Simpson in 1847, in Edinburgh. It is interesting that four years after Helmholtz's discovery, Manuel Garcia, the Spanish singer, developed the laryngoscope, setting our sister specialty on a firm foundation.

"And so, in that intellectually tumultuous decade 100 years ago, the whole edifice of mediaeval medicine with its ancient pre-
judices and preconceived superstitions, its reliance on humoral theories for inspiration, and stimulation and depletion for therapeusis—the whole of it went up in flames, and was replaced by a new science built on the solid rock of observation and experiment.

"It is not surprising, therefore, that the new ophthalmology sprang into life with a burst of activity which has never been surpassed. The new world opened by Helmholtz was explored with enthusiastic zeal: it must indeed have been exciting living at a time when within a few years so many things such as no one had even dreamed of were disclosed, when, almost every few months, a new disease was discovered and described. Add to this the work of Bowman and others on the minute anatomy of the eye, of Donders on refraction and the prescribing of spectacles, and a host of others on new techniques in surgery—all within the first decade after the ophthalmoscope was introduced—and we can appreciate that man was provided with a banquet, the richness of which could not be maintained, or if it were, could not be assimilated.

"In the hundred years which have followed, I think it can be said that we have been reaping the fruitful harvest of this prodigal sowing, consolidating and expanding, but adding little that is fundamentally new and revolutionary. But, although within these limits there have been advances aplenty, looked at as a whole, the century has seen an evolution rather than a revolution. Improvements and intricacies of techniques have been added one to the other; von Graefe’s iridectomy for glaucoma has evolved into a dozen drainage operations, Daviel’s extraction of cataract is to-day transformed; but the significant thing is that we still treat mechanically a symptom in glaucoma, and remove a lens because we do not yet know how to forestall its cellular death. Even corneal grafting, of which we are so proud these modern days, has more than a century-old history, and Henry Power, at the last International Congress of Ophthalmology held in London, in 1872, demonstrated cases of it. The only great revolutionary concept that has been added to the technique of surgery is the treatment of detachment of the retina by Jules Gonin, whose memory we are so proud to honour at this meeting.

"And where are we to-day? We have surely got to the stage when the ophthalmoscope and the microscope have revealed most of their secrets; for revolutionary new advances we require revolutionary new techniques. I think it may be that we are starting a completely new chapter and entering upon another revolution. We do not yet have the background or perspective to say whether
this resurgence of medical thought is related to a more widespread and general stirring of the human spirit among the nations; but it coincides with a time when the material power in the hands of man has seen the prodigious revolution of atomic energy.

"As it was a century ago, the new outlook is based upon a new method of approach. We have seen that Virchow's theory of cellular pathology wherein the cell was taken as a unit, has moulded pathological thought for 100 years. But to-day we can go further: we can leave the world of cells and enter the world of atoms and molecules. From the structural point of view, instead of Virchow's microscope, we are now equipped with the electron-microscope which is opening out a new and more intimate universe within the cell. From the functional point of view we can follow metabolic processes with radio-active elements through all the intricacies of metabolism. The age of biophysics and biochemistry has dawned; and instead of merely describing and mourning over the structural ruins which disease has left behind it, the change in outlook to-day, as I see it, is to probe more deeply, to examine the more subtle nature of the initial defect, to pass from cellular pathology to intra-cellular chemistry.

"The first great revolutionary victory has already been won and the whole of our therapeutics have changed within the last ten years by our new-found ability to overcome a great number of infective organisms—not by their mass slaughter by antiseptics—but by interfering with their intimate metabolism by penicillin and other abiotic drugs. Whither biochemical interference with metabolic processes by such substances as cortisone will lead us, no one can yet tell: but as our knowledge rapidly gets more intimate and our objectives more fundamental, I think it may be true to say that ophthalmology is leaving its first century of adolescence—a formative period where its main activities have been absorbed in the description and classification of gross disease-pictures, and is entering its second century—its adult life—when its goal will be problems of a more fundamental nature, when it can begin to formulate for itself an integrative philosophy based on a knowledge of the first principles of health and disease.

"Whether or not this generation will constitute such a landmark in ophthalmological history as did our predecessors of 100 years ago, is for the future to decide. In the meantime, you may remember what Tscherning said, quoting Guy de Chauliac, when he dared to contradict Helmholtz's theory of accommodation: 'A child can see farther than a giant if he sits upon his shoulders.' Seated securely on the shoulders of those giants of old, 'let us open the windows eastwards and shoot our arrows boldly at the midday
SIXTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY 525

sun: we will not hit our target but at least we will shoot higher than he who aims at a bush upon the ground. For a week in each other's company we shall practice our archery and examine these problems; it will be a great experience, for none of us can complain of their variety or complexity, their difficulty or their interest.

"I hope that you will find much satisfaction in your scientific deliberations; and I hope that you will find much greater satisfaction in the joy of each other's company. For this, to my mind, is the primary function of all international congresses—to meet, to get to know and to be inspired by those from other parts of the world who share a common task and have a common purpose. We will find the week to be short; so let us make the most of it; and whatever else you feel, I would ask you to be sure that I and your British hosts give you a welcome which is heartfelt and warm, and that our only thought is of how we can be of service to you."

In the course of his address, which followed Sir Stewart's speech, Professor Nordenson, as President of the International Council, reiterated his gratitude to the Royal Family, and thanked the British Government for all their help. He also mentioned the hospitality shown by Great Britain in 1872 soon after the Franco-Prussian War. Professor Nordenson then paid generous tribute to Roger Bacon, Isaac Newton, and other British pioneers in optics. Having praised the work of Locke, Berkeley, Porterfield, Young, Cheselden, Bowman, George Crichtet, Dalrymple, Mackenzie, Hutchinson, Huglings Jackson, Priestley Smith, Nettleship, Cummings, and Travers, he pointed out that excellent work was still being achieved in Britain. Finally he lamented the loss of Paton, von Gross, Terrien, Rossi, and those others who had died since the last International Congress was held at Cairo in 1937.

Inaugural addresses from each country would have unduly protracted the opening ceremony. Therefore six men had been chosen to speak for their respective continents. Europe's mouthpiece was Dr. Edouard Hartmann (France); Dr. John H. Dunnington (U.S.A.) spoke for North America; Professor R. Argañaraz (Argentina) for South America; Colonel Sir Jamshedji Duggan (India) for Asia; Dr. Abdel Fattah el Tobgy (Egypt) for Africa; and Dr. J. Ringland Anderson (Australia) for Australasia.

Scientific Communications

If the average listener finds any discourse inaudible, or if his attention for any other reason strays from the matter in hand, he can to a certain extent console himself by piously resolving to read it up when the transactions get into print. Such consolation
cannot, however, satisfy the curious observer who longs to watch the play of expression upon the features of one whose name has long been known to him in ophthalmic literature. Many people besides your reporter must have found it tantalizing, though inevitable, that three halls were in simultaneous use for most of the scientific sessions, so that only a minority of the papers could possibly be attended.

Ophthalmological films were being shown during the discussion on heredity, and throughout five of the other seven scientific sessions. That mainly explains the poor attendance noted at many a first-class paper. Mr. V. H. Negus, who presided over the International Congress of Otorhinolaryngology held last year in London, found that films proved a fatal counter-attraction to papers, even when the latter were being presented by eminent authorities known to possess an attractive style of delivery. Presumably the Executive Committee, to whom Mr. Negus's warning had been conveyed, felt that the disadvantages of pruning the film programme outweighed the disadvantages of almost empty auditoria for papers. The main argument in favour of the Committee's policy is that films cannot be individually distributed, whereas every member of a congress can dwell upon the scientific communications in the quiet of his library, if he awaits publication.

Abstracts were available at the beginning of the Congress, and the papers themselves will appear in the published Proceedings. Therefore not even a summary of the main items need here be set forth. Experts from all over the world could be heard speaking about retinal detachment, corneal grafting, aqueous veins, the role of the aqueous humour, squint, radiotherapy, cataract extraction, glaucoma, retrolental fibroplasia, electroretinography, lacrimal disorder and a number of other absorbing topics. It was delightful to listen to the discourses of old friends, such as Prof. H. J. M. Weve (Utrecht), Prof. Marc Amsler (Zürich), Prof. A. Franceschetti (Geneva), Dr. A. J. Bedell (Albany, U.S.A.), Prof. G. Bietti (Pavia) and Dr. Gunnar von Bahr (Uppsala). Others, such as Prof. L. Maggiore (Genoa), Prof. A. Feigenbaum (Israel), Prof. M. E. Alvaro (Brazil), Dr. A. B. Reese (Philadelphia) and Prof. H. Goldmann (Berne), had seldom or never been heard in London before, though their reputations had long been familiar to most of the participants in the Congress. Many other names could easily be added to these, which are taken at random from the list of contributors to the scientific sessions.

The first of the two major discussion subjects was "The role of the sympathetic nervous system in the genesis of vascular hypertension and its effect upon the eye". Opening papers
were delivered by Prof. F. H. Adler of Philadelphia, Dr. S. Schiff-Wertheimer (Paris) and Mr. Hedley Atkins (London). Among those who subsequently took part were Dr. A. J. Bedell and Dr. I. S. Tassman (U.S.A.) and Dr. P. Bailliart (Paris).

"The clinical and social aspects of heredity in ophthalmology" was the second main theme for discussion, opened by Prof. Laurence H. Snyder (U.S.A.), Miss Ida Mann (London and Perth, Western Australia) and Prof. A. Franceschetti (Geneva), the last of whom acknowledged the collaboration of D. Klein, S. Forni, and J. Babel.

Demonstrations, Exhibitions and Films

Operative sessions were held at several of the general teaching hospitals, and at the Moorfields and Westminster branches of the Moorfields, Westminster and Central Eye Hospital. Special physiological and pathological demonstrations were staged at the Institute of Ophthalmology in Judd Street, where every day the departments of pathology, physiology, chemistry, and medical illustration were open to view. Dr. M. Lederman gave demonstrations in ocular radiotherapy at the Wellcome Research Institution, physiotherapeutic methods were displayed by Mr. P. D. Trevor-Roper at Moorfields, and Mr. Harold Ridley held several sessions at St. Thomas’s Hospital to show how colour television can be applied to ophthalmological work, including ophthalmoscopy. Orthoptic methods were explained at the Moorfields and Westminster branches of the Moorfields, Westminster and Central Eye Hospital.

The manufacture and fitting of artificial eyes and of contact lenses formed part of the Exhibition of Social and Industrial Ophthalmology in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. This interesting display also included methods of preventing eye damage, optical devices for close work, information about miners’ nystagmus, and first aid for industrial injuries. One item of paramount importance was an exposition of up-to-date methods for vocational training and recreation among blind people. Astonishing progress has been made during the last two or three decades, so that many blinded persons are now able to play their part in the national economy.

Two other exhibitions were housed in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. One of these comprised excellent histological slides. The Illuminating Engineering Society was responsible for the other, in which a number of lighting methods were set out with special reference to the features making for efficiency in various types of work.

Weeks of whole-time study might well have been devoted to
the splendid array of clinico-pathological material at the Wellcome Research Institution next to Friends’ House. It was almost heart-breaking to contemplate the rapid dispersal of so much instructive material assembled with such care and judgment. Special congratulations are due to the organizers and exhibitors of this collection, which also included historical books, portraits, early spectacles, and old-fashioned instruments for investigating and operating upon the human eye.

More than sixty films, which had to be spread over six sessions, were shown in the auditorium of the Wellcome Research Institution. Corneal grafting, cataract surgery, and various operations devised for the relief of glaucoma, were shown upon the screen. Here also were some fascinating results of transplantation experiments by Prof. L. S. Stone (Yale University) and his son Dr. W. Stone. Several films dealt with the operative treatment of detached retina, and Mr. H. B. Stallard’s three films included one showing his modification of Krönlein’s lateral orbitotomy. Certainly the film display proved to be one of the most popular features of the Congress.

On the afternoon of July 17, His Worship the Mayor of St. Pancras (Councillor Sidney G. Williams, J.P.) formally opened the Trade Exhibition at St. Pancras Town Hall. Exhibitors from France, Italy, Switzerland, and the U.S.A. displayed their goods side-by-side with well-known British firms. The ophthalmological and surgical instruments, books and medicaments had been attractively planned by the organizers. Interpreters speaking English, French, Spanish, Italian, and German were available every day.

**Ancillary Societies**

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Association for the Prevention of Blindness, held on July 18 under the presidency of Dr. P. Bailliart (Paris), the Association’s prize was awarded jointly to Dr. Jean-Gallois and Dr. R. Weekers. On the following day a scientific session was held, at which several delegates presented their reports on “Nomenclature and classification of the Causes of Blindness”. A discussion ensued.

The scientific session of the International Organization against Trachoma on July 19 began with a presidential address by Mr. A. F. MacCallan, after which several other members delivered papers.

**Official Receptions**

On July 19, during an evening reception given by the Royal College of Surgeons, Sir Cecil Wakeley, P.R.C.S., conferred
honorary fellowships upon Dr. Paul Bailliart (Paris) and Dr. Derrick T. Vail (Chicago). This closely guarded distinction has only once before been bestowed upon an ophthalmologist. Therefore the fact that two of our number should now be received into the select band is matter for gratitude and rejoicing. Dr. Bailliart was introduced by Mr. F. W. Law, the Secretary-General of the Congress, who stressed the recipient's meritorious research into the retinal circulation, and praised his lucidity of speech. The President of the Congress, Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, dwelt upon Dr. Vail's outstanding work as Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal of Ophthalmology, as Professor in the Northwestern University, and as Ophthalmologist-in-Chief to the American forces in Europe during the recent world war.

The President of the Royal College of Surgeons and Lady Wakeley not only welcomed visitors at the evening reception, but also attended the Congress banquet on the following day. Sir Cecil also came to the opening ceremony on July 17, two days after he and his Council had entertained the International Council to dinner. These are some of the many actions whereby he has proved how keenly he desires to help ophthalmology.

Other guests were generously received at the British Medical Association and at the Royal Society of Medicine on July 19. During the earlier part of that same evening a number of senior and official delegates, together with their wives, dined in Apothecaries Hall at the invitation of the officers of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom, the Ophthalmic Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, and the Faculty of Ophthalmologists. Before the company rose from this dinner, Mr. M. H. Whiting, President of the Ophthalmological Society, presented the Nettleship Medal to Dr. A. J. Ballantyne (Glasgow).

Social Events

On July 18 the Right Honourable Aneurin Bevan, M.P., Minister of Health, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, received members and associates of the Congress at the Tate Gallery, where they had ample room to talk with friends amidst artistic masterpieces. Preliminary circulation of the visitors had already been encouraged by the Congress Reception and Dance on July 17, when they were received by the President and Lady Duke-Elder in the specious ballroom of Grosvenor House. Here also assembled nearly a thousand diners at tables ablaze with flowers, for the Congress banquet on July 20, when Mr. A. F. Gibbs, the banqueting manager of Grosvenor House, showed what an expert can do with the aid of skilled staff.
The chief guests at this successful Banquet were His Excellency Lewis W. Douglas, the American Ambassador, and Mrs. Douglas. Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, having extended his presidential welcome to friends and delegates, pointed out that the First International Congress of Ophthalmology, held in Brussels in 1837, preceded all other international assemblies convened by branches of medicine and surgery. He went on to emphasize the lack of racial and economic barriers in ophthalmological circles, and reminded his listeners that, whereas only 112 delegates attended the Fourth International Congress, held in London in 1872 under the presidency of Donders, the present Congress embraced over 2,000 people drawn from 66 nations. Sir Stewart then called upon H.E. The American Ambassador to propose the toast of Ophthalmology, not only because the latter might be said to know a great deal about the subject, but also because he was such a warm-hearted friend.

Mr. Douglas, whose speech will be fully reported in the Proceedings of the Congress, expressed his deep appreciation of the services rendered to him by Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, Mr. M. H. Whiting, and Mr. E. C. Zorab, after the severe injury sustained by him last year. He also maintained that the handicap resulting from this injury was not so great as some which other people had managed to surmount. Then he went on to deal with the political significance of events occurring in the Far East. Replies to the toast of Ophthalmology were made by Dr. P. Bailliart, F.R.C.S. (Eng.), a former Gonin medallist, and by Count H. Arruga, F.R.C.S. (Edin.), the latest winner of that medal. To hear Bailliart speaking beautiful French with his resonant voice is always a delight, and Arruga radiates goodwill and civilization, whether or not his listeners can understand the language of Spain.

Social Organization and Expeditions

The Congress registration office was housed in the Old Library in B.M.A. House, so that the familiar courtyard in Tavistock Square was almost constantly thronged with visitors from all over the world. A bureau for the spread of information, the delivery of messages, the distribution of tickets for social events, and a host of other purposes, some of which had not been anticipated, was set up in the Hastings Hall adjoining the old Library.

Advance planning for the entertainment of Congress visitors had been designed to satisfy diverse interests. There were general sightseeing tours of London on four successive days, visits to the House of Lords and the House of Commons, and two trips to Messrs. J. Lyons' Catering Factory at Cadby Hall. Hampton
Court, Westminster Abbey, the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, Hatfield House, the Zoological Society of London, Windsor Castle and Eton College, the Royal Naval College and the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, as well as the Port of London, were visited by various parties. An afternoon reception was given by the London County Council at County Hall. Non-medical films were shown on the morning of July 18, and a dress show by Lachasse took place on July 17. The Hon. Mrs. Williamson-Noble’s afternoon at-home on July 21 was accompanied by another Lachasse dress show, and the Martin String Quartet played during Mrs. F. A. Juler’s musical at-home on the same evening.

Post-congress expeditions to Canterbury, Cambridge, Oxford, and Stratford-on-Avon were also arranged. At Canterbury the Dean had undertaken to meet the visitors before Evensong on July 22, and Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Heath had invited the returning expedition to tea at their home in Maidstone. Sightseeing tours of the Cambridge colleges were made before early Evensong on July 22. Afterwards the Provost and Fellows of King’s College entertained the visitors to tea in the Fellows’ garden. On the same day a garden party was given by the Regius Professor of Medicine at Christ Church, Oxford, and Mr. J. Betjeman delivered a lecture on Oxford Architecture in the Hall of St. John’s College. The participants in this Oxford expedition were also given the opportunity of seeing Blenheim Palace and other centres of local interest on Sunday, July 23, and then on July 24 followed sightseeing tours of Oxford and Stratford-on-Avon, culminating in a performance of Henry VIII at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre. Long before these words appear in print, the Executive Council of the Congress will have officially thanked the organizers and hosts who were concerned with these expeditions. It may here be appropriate, however, to say that the efforts expended on these outings were fruitful. Interest was aroused, historical echoes were awakened, and the lawns of our cathedral cities and seats of learning were the scene of many a friendly encounter.

Some of the members and associates went on to Paris, where the Annual Congress of the Société française d’Ophtalmologie was being held from July 24 to 27. Normally the French Society holds it congress in May, but this year it was felt that numerous visitors from afar would welcome the chance of attending the two functions in successive weeks. As professional people leave Paris in large numbers during the last week of July, strong arguments existed in favour of holding the French congress one week before the International assembly. On second thoughts, however, the
officers of the French Society realized that some people might be afraid of an anticlimax if a congress so international in character as that of their Society were to precede the International Congress proper, and they therefore sacrificed their own immediate convenience. Let us hope that so civil a gesture by France will not be overlooked, since Latin courtesy is more precious than ever in the fiercely competitive world of to-day.

Closing Ceremony

Professor Nordenson announced that the delegates had agreed to postpone for a year the decision where to hold the next international congress. It was then decided that questions relating to the internationalization of astigmatic axis nomenclature, visual standards for traffic, etc., should henceforth be left in the hands of the delegation instead of being debated in plenary session. Gratitude was then expressed by Professor Nordenson to the British ophthalmologists and their ladies for the success of the Congress, and for the warmth of the welcome extended to visitors from abroad.

Closing speeches were delivered by another group of representatives from the six continents of the world. Prof. L. Guglianetti (Italy) spoke for Europe; Dr. G. Stuart Ramsey (Canada) for North America; Prof. M. E. Alvaro (Brazil) for South America; Dr. N. F. Ayberk (Turkey) for Asia; Dr. R. C. J. Meyer (Transvaal) for Africa; and Dr. W. J. Hope-Robertson (New Zealand) for Australasia.

Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, who now succeeds Professor Nordenson as President of the International Council of Ophthalmology, emphasized the value of friendships formed and strengthened at these international congresses, which he aptly likened to milestones in the progress of knowledge. He went on to thank the International Council for the compliment which it had paid Great Britain in entrusting the management of this Congress to her. Among the members of that Council Sir Stewart particularly thanked Prof. Nordenson, the immediate Past-President, and Prof. H. Ehlers (Copenhagen), whose position as Honorary Secretary of the Council now passes to Dr. E. Hartmann (Paris). Sir Stewart then expressed his gratitude to all those who had contributed to the scientific discussions, and to the numerous helpers, including lady volunteers, who had for months been engaged upon Congress plans. The industry of Mr. Law, the Secretary-General, was specially mentioned by Sir Stewart, who finally thanked the guests for imparting such success to the gathering, and assured them that they would always be
welcome to return, in order that the happiness of Congress week might be renewed.

The President of the Congress

To close this account without praising the way in which Sir Stewart Duke-Elder discharged his presidential duties would be impossible. He and Lady Duke-Elder seemed to be everywhere at once, renewing old friendships and forming new ties. At the microphone after the Grosvenor House banquet he created the impression of speaking directly, and with simple sincerity, to every separate person in the room. There are many different recipes for making an effective speech, but few speakers can benefit from them, because devices successfully adopted by one person may fall flat when another borrows them. Sir Stewart's oratorical charm depends upon his individual approach to each member of the audience. Egotism he wisely eschews, because he is aware that few things are more embarrassing than the speaker who talks mainly of himself, whether in a vein of glorification or in one of pretended belittlement.

Of the visitors who had never previously met our President, many must have been surprised to find him so innocent of pomp, when they thought of the massive published work standing to his credit. Loaded with academic trophies by the ophthalmologists of Great Britain and elsewhere, he has now attained such eminence that some of his future marks of distinction may be destined to exalt rather the donor than the recipient. His activities in war and peace have extended for many thousands of miles in various directions, and always he has borne a load of responsibility in the care of the great. The fertility of his imagination can only be described by Dominie Sampson's favourite superlative PRO-DI-GI-OUS because spare notions for other people's research have kept welling out of him, even while he has been breathlessly following his own scientific trails. As though these commitments were not enough, he finds time to sit on innumerable Boards, and nobody answers a letter with greater promptitude.

Sir Stewart's friends have long ceased to marvel at his energy. They know that he is a law unto himself, although he would never be guilty of rating himself above the "lesser breeds without the Law". He has held the burden of the presidency with all the greater distinction because of his lightness of touch. In raising the prestige of British ophthalmology, Sir Stewart has added to his own stature, which already stood high before this sixteenth milestone came into being.
Epilogue

From this quiet room, where a clock ticking upon the mantelpiece is the only competitor with silence, trees and flowers and grass are the only real objects visible through the window, and yet the lawn seems to be populated with imaginary visitors lingering in the precincts of Tavistock Square. Foremost among the company is a modest man unembellished by trappings, but wearing the true stamp of dignity. It is the immediate Past President of the International Council of Ophthalmology, Professor Nordenson of Stockholm, a resourceful linguist, blessed with friends in all the countries represented at this memorable assembly. Let us salute him by changing two words of Shakespeare's immortal tribute:

"This is the noblest Viking of them all."
ERRATA

We regret the omission of the author's name from the account of the Sixteenth International Congress of Ophthalmology; this was contributed by Mr. J. H. Doggart, F.R.C.S.

page 522, 7 lines from bottom for “either” read “ether”.
page 528, par. 2, line 6 for “University” read “University”.
page 528, par. 5, line 2 for “Trachomma” read “Trachoma”.
page 529, 5 lines from bottom for “specious” read “spacious”.