II International Orthoptic Congress

Amsterdam, May 11-13, 1971

The International Orthoptic Association will organize the Second International Orthoptic Congress in the International Congress Centre R.A.I. in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on May 11-13, 1971. The three main themes will be visual acuity, the scope of orthoptics, and squint in disease. Further information may be obtained from the Congress Bureau, 199 Oudezijds Achterburgwal Amsterdam-C, The Netherlands.

Obituary

Paul Bailliart, 1877-1969

The ophthalmic world will feel a great blank now that Paul Bailliart has died on October 29, 1969, for he has occupied a unique place in our specialty in the last two generations. He was truly Frenchman, but in his speeches and in his conduct he was not of France but of the world.

Schooled at Besançon (1884-95) he entered the military medical school at Lyon and acted as army surgeon from 1902 to 1907 when he went to Paris and initially worked with Morax; thereafter he had a distinguished professional career in that city. His contributions to the whole of ophthalmology were widespread; and he produced three books of great merit: the Traité d’Ophtalmologie (1939), with Magitot; the Manue d’Ophtalmologie (1950), and Les Affections de la Rétin (1933). It was perhaps in the retina that his chief interests lay and his technique of ophthalmodynamometry brought him fame throughout the specialty. He was also interested in history and to his credit wrote two books on this subject.

But it was his wide international relations and his personal qualities that constituted his greatest influence on our specialty. A member of a host of ophthalmological societies he was personally known to most ophthalmologists of his time. The most delightful event in the annual meetings of the French Ophthalmological Society was the lunch at his country house near Paris. You were driven out by an obliging ophthalmologist-chauffeur and after he had found a small space on the verge of the country lane for the car you went into the garden where you were welcomed warmly by your host and his delightful wife and then you met the ophthalmic world as you ate and drank under the trees. If you were asked to this party you had entered the highest ophthalmic circle. Equally respected and loved by all who knew him, he was always genial, kindly, and the soul of courtesy and at the same time completely honest. Fortunately his life was long and full and, with his wife who pre-deceased him, his family and his friends, happy.