

International Comments

Cytology Congress in Rio de Janeiro

Dr. Emmerich von Haam, professor of pathology at Ohio State University, president elect of the International Congress of Cytology, and secretary and executive vice-president of the Third International Congress of Cytology in Rio de Janeiro, gave a short interview to our correspondent. He said that the first congress of cytology took place in Vienna six years ago, the second one was held in Paris, and this, the third one, took place in Rio de Janeiro last May. At England's invitation, London was chosen as the site of the fourth congress, to be held in 1971.

At this year's, the Third International Congress, almost 400 physicians participated. The majority were from South America, the second largest group was from the United States, and the third, from Japan. A total of 300 papers were presented. Participants at the congress came from 50 countries. Quite curiously, Russia was absent even though some other countries from behind the Iron Curtain, like Czechoslovakia, had their representatives.

Doctor von Haam says that the International Academy of Cytology is a small organization but the mem-

bers know each other intimately and a sincere cooperation between them adds tremendously to the progress of cytological knowledge throughout the world. "From the beginning of cytology of vaginal smears, some 30 years ago, cytology now extends into various areas of medicine," said Dr. von Haam, "and is able to pinpoint other diseases such as hormonal disorders and various inflammatory processes by the simple staining of tissues and microscopic study of the cells. Cytology has added a new and tremendously important tool for diagnosis."

Many important papers and interesting scientific exhibits were presented at the Third International Congress of Cytology. Of the more interesting papers we should mention "The Usage of Computers in Cytologic Research and Cell Diagnosis" by George L. Wied, MD, of the United States. Also of interest was "Cytologic and Cytogenetic Aspects of the X Chromosome of Man" by M. L. Barr, MD, and E. G. Bertram, MD, of Canada. A third interesting presentation was "Cervical Atypias During Pregnancy: Natural History and Prognosis" by Jean A. de Burx, of France, and another fine paper was by Gunter F. Bahr of the US who spoke on "The Electron Microscope as a Quantitative Tool in Cytology."

Twenty-one national societies form the International Academy of Cytology. The two most recent mem-

ber societies are the Finnish Society of Cytology in Helsinki and the South African Society of Cytology of Pretoria.

The majority of the papers presented at the meeting in Rio de Janeiro will be published later in *Acta Cytologica*; it is quite possible that a special issue for the proceedings of the cytology congress will be set aside.

The International Congress of Cytology in Rio de Janeiro was organized under the auspices of the International Academy of Cytology, co-sponsored by the Brazilian Society of Cytology and the American Society of Cytology. The president of the congress was Dr. Clarice do A. Ferreira, of Brazil. Dr. Emmerich von Haam, the secretary and executive vice-president of the congress was assisted by the vice-president representing the American Society of Cytology, Dr. George L. Weid of the US.

The 1968 Maurice Goldblatt Cytology Award was presented to Doctor von Haam at the official banquet of the Congress.

I Wish I Knew

"Do viruses cause cancer in man?" asks Dr. Anthony Allison from the Clinical Research Center Laboratories at Mill Hill, London (*Lancet*, May 25, 1968). "There are a great many things—scientific as well as nonscientific—that I wish I knew. Most I shall never know. But of all the current scientific questions to which I should like to have answers, one appears as though it should be most readily answerable in my lifetime: whether viruses cause cancer in man. This problem is tantalizing because for decades it has seemed that the solution must be only just out of reach, and that as our reach is extended by modern knowledge and techniques, the solution must come within our grasp. And yet we are still without an unambiguous answer to this simple and fundamental question."

And then Doctor Allison goes into a very serious and deep explanation why he does not have the answer to his question.

New Officers

New officers of the German Academy of Nuclear Medicine are Drs. H. Hundeshage, Hanover, president; E. Graul, Marburg, vice-president; and U. Zeidler, Hanover, secretary.



Emmerich von Haam, MD, (center) at the Third International Cytology Congress in Rio de Janeiro.



Guillermo Terzano, MD, well-known cytologist.

A Legend

Guillermo Terzano, MD, a staff member of the Little Company of Mary Hospital in Buenos Aires, is an outstanding authority on cytology in Argentina. Doctor Terzano trained under Doctor Papanicolaou at Cornell University in New York in 1949. He is a corresponding editor of *Acta Cytologica*. As a member of the Program Committee of the Third International Congress of Cytology, Doctor Terzano was a very active participant.

Evaluation of Medical Education

Canada will host a conference on evaluation of medical education in 1969. The conference will take place at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. The dates for the conference are June 16th to 18th.

Chairman of the Planning Committee for the conference is Dr. J. A. L. Gilbert, director of research and medical education at Alberta University. The conference will include formal presentations by distinguished authorities from North America and Europe. Topics will include both evaluation of the presently accepted forms of medical education and evaluation of necessary changes for the future.

WHO Board Chairman

The new chairman of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization is Dmitri Dmitrievich Venediktov, MD, deputy minister of health of the USSR.

Buenos Aires University

"Buenos Aires University has become a center of all medical activities in Argentina," Dr. A. Andres Santas, dean of the Medical Faculty of Buenos Aires University, explained to our reporter. This medical school underwent a great number of important changes during the past few years. Formerly the school had the traditional French type of curriculum which has been modernized and adjusted to the progress of medicine in the Western Hemisphere and the world.

The medical school at the University of Buenos Aires is affiliated with the Hospital Argerich which is presently the place where all BAU medical students train. The members of the teaching faculty are members of the staff of this hospital. The hospital can be considered in a way comparable to the county hospitals in the big cities of the United States. Dr. Hector Pasman is the director of Hospital Argerich.

A new university hospital is now being erected, and is located just across the street from the medical school. It will be ready for use by the end of 1969. The new hospital will have an 800-bed capacity and facilities to care for 1,300 patients in case of an emergency. The new hospital has been named Hospital Escuela José de San Martín. It will be a very modern structure and it is planned that this hospital will set a pattern for other hospitals of Latin America. "This hospital will be a mirror of how a hospital in South America should look," said Dr. Santas to our correspondent. Just as Dr. Santas feels, Buenos Aires, and especially the BAU medical school, have become the headquarters for Latin American medical science and center of medical care and administration.

Presently, BAU medical school is responsible for most of the specialty training for Argentine physicians. There are about 800 residents in the various specialty departments at this time. Up until approximately two years ago there were no residencies and no specialty board examinations. Specialty training then was accomplished in the form of a preceptorship and the preceptor's statement about the completion of training used to be sufficient proof to attain the title of a specialist. The picture is rapidly changing throughout the country and formal residency training is being introduced in other

medical school-connected hospitals also.

The dean of the BAU Medical School, Doctor Santas, works in close rapport with the Argentine Secretary of Health. Before the Department of Health passes any law, the opinion of the medical faculty is sought. The Chief of the Public Health Service of Argentina is a member of the teaching faculty. The ministers of health from each state of Argentina meet every year at the University of Buenos Aires Medical School with the members of the medical faculty and with the Secretary of Health. Various problems of health administration and public health of the country are discussed at these meetings. Often the BAU Medical School is chosen for various national and international meetings. In October of 1968 there will be a meeting of the Pan American Public Health Association.

BAU is one of the oldest schools in Argentina. It was established in 1821. The large auditorium in the Faculty of Medicine at BAU contains a fresco by Gonzales Moreno showing the reading of the Act creating the medical school.

Latin America Does Not Remain Behind

Last May Brazil entered the field of heart transplantation. The transplantation took place at the Hospital das Clinicas in São Paulo.

At the same time the Brazilians claimed another first in transplantation of human organs. At the Hospital Silvestre in Rio de Janeiro, a transplantation of human cadaver pancreas into a young man with incurable diabetes was performed.

Seventy-First German Physicians' Meeting

The seventy-first annual meeting of all physicians of West Germany took place in Wiesbaden from the 17th to the 22nd of May 1968. Besides organizational meetings there were many scientific presentations and demonstrations of scientific medical films.

East Germany Rejected by WHO

The Soviet zone of Germany recently announced its intention of joining the World Health Organization; however, the application was rejected by WHO in Geneva.