

THE FIRST LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS ON PARASITOLOGY, SANTIAGO DE CHILE, JANUARY 18—22, 1967

The 1st Latin-American Congress on Parasitology, organized by the Federation of Latin American Parasitologists (FLAP), was held in Santiago de Chile, January 18—22, 1967 under the patronage of the University of Chile. Chairman of the Congress was Professor Amador Neghme, director of the Parasitological Institute of the Medical College. The Congress was attended by 231 registered delegates from Latin America, 25 from the U.S.A. and 9 from Europe. The papers were presented in five sections:

1) The teaching of parasitology, 2) Biochemistry and physiology of parasitoses, 3) Immunology of parasitic infections, 4) Progress in diagnostic methods and in the treatment of parasitoses, 5) Various topics. The last day of the Congress was devoted to scientific films and demonstrations. A publication (228 pp.) containing summaries of the 198 presented papers was obtainable in Spanish, Portuguese and English, at the opening of the Congress. The themes were divided into general problems of parasitology with regard to conditions in Latin America (amebiasis, toxoplasmosis, helminthoses a.o.), containing reports on laboratory diagnosis, epidemiology, the clinic and treatment, and into problems specific for Central and Latin America, especially the Chagas' disease, South American leishmaniasis, vectors, principally

hemipterous insects (*Triatoma* a.o.), poisonous spiders and snakes. The next congress will be held in Mexico.

Two days previous to the opening of the Congress (Jan. 16 and 17), the group studying toxoplasmosis (Grupo de estudio sobre toxoplasmosis auspiciado por la Oficina Sanitaria Americana) invited 13 delegates—8 from Latin America (Apt, Atías, Etcheverry, Hirt, Maekelt, Niedmann, Pasmanik, Thiermann), two from the U.S.A. (Jacobs, Remington) and 3 from Europe (Jíra—ČSSR, Scholtyssek—GFR and Werner—West Berlin) for talks on toxoplasmosis. The problems discussed on the first day of this meeting were concerned with the clinical importance of toxoplasmosis in both American Continents with special emphasis on toxoplasmic lymphadenitis and affections of the eye, heart a.o., in its relation to abortion and on therapeutic possibilities. The second day was devoted to the problems of natural infection and the epidemiology of toxoplasmosis with special reference to the recently discovered possibility of transmission by the eggs of intestinal nematodes. The arrangement of this meeting which preceded the Congress on Parasitology demonstrates clearly the great interest of the Latin American parasitologists and physicians in toxoplasmosis.

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