

Second International Congress of Parasitology in Washington

The Second International Congress of Parasitology was held in Washington (D.C.) from September 6—12, 1970; it was attended by about 1,500 participants from 62 countries of all the continents. As a matter of fact, a predominant majority of delegates came from the U.S.A., whereas — in regard to the place of dealings — the participation of European parasitologists was inadequately lower. From Czechoslovakia there were three representatives, Prof. Jírovec (Prague), Prof. Vodrážka (Košice) and Prof. Čatár (Bratislava).

The session was opened by Prof. Foster, the president of the Congress. After a few words of welcome by Prof. Standard, spokesman of the U.S. Federal Health Department, and by Prof. Cameron, President of the World Federation of Parasitologists, Prof. Soper (World Health Organization) delivered a very interesting lecture concerning co-operation in the field of research. Relevant parasitological problems in the world were discussed by Prof. Baer, Neuchâtel University (Switzerland).

With an eye to the high number of delegates and lectures, as well as in an attempt to encourage a broader discussion bearing on individual papers and contributions, the Congress was organized consistent with the new conception of international scientific symposia. The morning sessions were devoted to fundamental lectures on taxonomy, genetics and the development of parasites; pathology of parasitic infections; pharmacology of antiparasitics and immunity against parasitic diseases as well as physiology, biochemistry and epidemiology of parasites and their infection. Afternoons were dedicated to informal colloquia at which the lecturers summarized the problems, latest information or results that were not comprised in the complex of lectures. Summaries were published in advance in the *Journal of Parasitology* and placed at each participant's disposal before the start of the

Congress. The individual contributions were followed by discussions in which each delegate was allowed to deal with the problematics as well as mention his own experiences and results. A total of 62 colloquia were held, covering practically the complete field of human and veterinary parasitology. Consequently, it was difficult to attend even a part of these colloquia; therefore it is also impossible to evaluate their standard in general. Quite a number of the colloquia were excellent but there were also contributions of an average level.

During the closing ceremony Dr. Kreudimer introduced scientific associations which had been granted collective membership of the World Federation of Parasitologists (from Malaya, Thailand, Scandinavia, Ireland, Yugoslavia, Columbia, and Chile). Finally, a new committee of the World Federation of Parasitologists was elected, with the president Prof. Dr. Jean Baer (Switzerland) and the vice-presidents Prof. Dr. Jírovec (Czechoslovakia), Dr. Laird (New Zealand), and Dr. Sadun (U.S.A.). The other members of the committee are Prof. Dr. Piekarski (G.F.R.), Prof. Dr. Kozar (Poland), Prof. Dr. Biagi (Mexico), Prof. Dr. Ishizaki (Japan), Prof. Dr. Neghme (Chile), and Dr. Montovani (Italy). The plenary session accepted a resolution to hold the Third International Congress of Parasitology in 1974 in Munich (G.F.R.) and to elect Prof. Piekarski its president.

It is necessary to underline the high reputation enjoyed by the Czechoslovak parasitology; this fact was reflected in the election of Prof. Dr. Jírovec to vice-president of the International Parasitological Federation. Both the Congress and its large audience and programme have given proof of the extraordinary significance of parasitology as a scientific branch undergoing intensive development.

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