

Third International Congress of Parasitology

The Third International Congress of Parasitology was held in Munich between 25–31 August 1974, and was attended by about 1500 delegates from 77 countries of the world. The programme was divided into 85 sections concentrated in 7 topical groups: protozoology (17), helminthology (21), arachnology (14), immunology (11), chemotherapy (8), physiology and biochemistry, (6) and other problems (8). Over 1000 papers were presented in these sections. Apart from them 6 main comprehensive papers were read dealing with the following themes: Advances in immunodiagnosis of parasitic diseases; Biochemistry of helminths; Economic aspects of parasitic diseases of man; Advances in the biology of sporozoans; Problems of resistance to insecticides, and Helminths and zoonoses. Czechoslovakia was represented at the congress by specialists from institutes of both Czechoslovak and Slovak Academies of Sciences, universities and research institutes affiliated to industrial works, and four acted as chairmen or co-chairmen of separate sections.

During the session of the congress, following the official opening and addresses delivered by representatives of various institutions Rudolf Leuckart Medals were awarded to 6 outstanding representatives of parasitology: Prof. Dr. R. Ph. Dollphus, Prof. Dr. P.C.C. Garnham, Prof. Dr. R. Geigy, Prof. Dr. J. I. Polyansky, Prof. Dr. H. W. Stunkard and Prof. Dr. H. P. van Thiel. The introductory paper entitled "Present trends in parasitology" was read by the President of the Congress, Prof. Dr. G. Piekarski. The programme of relevant sections taking place in 15 congress halls was started in the afternoon. It is impossible in this short report to cover the enormous volume of discussed problems attesting the great advances of parasitology during recent years. I shall therefore only briefly mention the work of the above mentioned 7 groups. In the fields of protozoology, helminthology and arachnology the relevant sections were arranged primarily according to the zoological system of parasites and were concerned mainly with biology and ecology of separate groups as well as with problems of evolution, taxonomy, cultivation, cytology, cytogenetics, fine structures, public health importance of parasites and their control. In the field of immunology the sections

dealt with properties of antibodies to parasites, antigenic character of parasites, allergic reactions, cell immunity, immunodiagnosis, immunopathology and immunization against parasites. The sections related to chemotherapy discussed protozoan diseases, trematodiasis, cestodiasis and nematodiasis of man and domestic animals. Another group of sections concerned metabolism of parasitic protozoans, biochemistry of helminths and parasitic arthropods as well as pathophysiology of parasitic diseases. The last group consisted of sections devoted to parasites of fishes, amphibians, reptiles and birds, to pathology of invertebrates, molluscicides, control of pests and parasitological problems in marine animals.

During the congress meetings were held by representatives of the World Federation of Parasitologists, European Federation of Parasitologists, parasitological societies, and there were meetings of special working groups as well. Several social events and excursions were also successful. Professional exhibitions and film shows devoted to parasitological problems aroused great interest.

During the final plenary session elections were held of the new representatives of the World Federation of Parasitologists. Prof. Dr. G. Piekarski (German Federal Republic) was voted into the office of the new President of the Federation, Dr. J. Weiser was elected representative of Czechoslovakia. The next Congress of Parasitology will be held in 1978 in Warsaw, with Academician W. Michailow as its President. The proceedings of the last day were terminated by resolutions which were all accepted.

The Third International Congress of Parasitology demonstrated the rapid advancement of this scientific discipline in recent years, not only in its classic form, but primarily in some working fields such as cytomorphology, cytogenetics, biochemistry, biophysics, immunology, chemotherapy etc. Modern methods in this research are much more widely used. At the same time the congress showed the importance of parasitology to be still greater today, since some parasitic diseases are on the wax. The parasitological congress in Munich was well organized and undoubtedly contributed to international understanding and further advances of this discipline.

Dr. V. Černý, CSc.