

VIIth International Congress of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, Varna, Bulgaria, 2—6 October 1978

Between 2 and 6 October 1978 the VIIth International Congress of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases was held in the "F. J. Curie" International Home of Scientists in Varna-Druzhba (Bulgaria). It was convened and organized by the International Society for the Study of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases affiliated to the Union of Scientific Medical Societies in Bulgaria. The proceedings were arranged in ten sections and took place in a parallel manner in seven lecture halls with great international participation.

The most extensive first section was concerned with viral hepatitis and included the following topical groups: viral hepatitis antigens, immunoprophylaxis, acute viral hepatitis, chronic viral hepatitis and epidemiology. The second section dealt with gastrointestinal infections (enterotoxins, intestinal infections caused by conditional pathogenic microorganisms, epidemiology, clinical aspects and treatment of gastrointestinal infections, *E. coli* and vibrio infections, shigelloses, salmonelloses and poliomyelitis-like diseases). The third section discussed problems of nosocomial infections, questions of conditions for the appearance of nosocomial infections, clinical and epidemiological aspects and prophylaxis.

The fourth section was designed for parasitic diseases. It started with a panel discussing the use of ELISA method (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) in infectious and parasitic diseases, primarily toxoplasmosis, hydatidosis, listeriosis, eye toxocariasis and opisthorchosis. The topical group "Pathogenesis and clinical aspects of parasitic diseases" was presented in papers mainly on human helminthology (problems of trichinellosis, ascariasis, enterobiasis, echinococcosis) and protozoology (lambliosis, leishmaniosis, trypanosomiasis, malaria); a whole afternoon session was devoted to toxoplasmosis. Questions of immunology of parasitic diseases were covered in papers dealing with amoebiasis (*E. histolytica* and pathogenic amoebas from the *limax* group), trichomoniasis, leishmaniasis and helminthiases (fasciolosis, trichinellosis). The topical group "Epidemiology and control of endemic and exotic groups" was presented in many papers which aroused lively discussion. It clearly showed that the ever-increasing migration of people from one geographic region into another involves new epidemiological problems because the diseases previously restricted only to tropical and subtropical zones

have become of global importance. The discussion revealed that within these problems it is necessary to intensify the studies on the ecology of potential vectors and their relationship to the pathogenic agent under conditions of large-scale laboratory and field experiments.

The papers presented in the fifth section were concerned with chemotherapy of bacterial infections (topical groups: "Chemotherapy of bacterial infection", "Chemotherapy of mycoses" and "Immunology and chemotherapy", "Side effects of chemotherapy"). In the sixth section attention was focused on the teaching of infectious diseases the contributions being divided into two topical groups: "Infectiology and medical education and post-graduate education" and "Teaching of infectious and parasitic diseases".

The section with the heading "Varia" (influenza and other acute respiratory diseases, measles, mumps, bacterial meningitis, anthrax, tetanus, brucellosis) included two topical groups important primarily from the aspect of natural focality research: "Hemorrhagic fevers and tick-borne encephalitis" and "Leptospirosis". In the section entitled "Enteral immunisation against intestinal infections" discussed were the problems of attenuated strains for live vaccines and immunological investigations of live and chemical vaccines. In the ninth section accounts were given of new antiviral substances, their testing in vivo and clinical trial, structure—activity relationship and mechanism of action.

Replacing the tenth section, a symposium on rickettsioses and chlamydioses closed the professional part of the congress proceedings. The programme also included a final plenary session designed for the adaptation of a Federation Statute by the International Society for Study of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases.

The success of the Congress was based on the immaculate and extensive work of the preparatory committee headed by Prof. Dr. L. Shindarov and was also due to the amiable atmosphere which enveloped the "F. J. Curie" International Home of Scientists in the resort "Druzhba" near Varna. All participants highly appreciated the fact that at the opening of the congress available was not only the volume of Abstracts of all submitted contributions (616), but also Reports (in 3 volumes), containing the full text of papers presented at the Congress.

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