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XIXth International Physiological Congress

MONTREAL will receive an important gathering of scientists when the XIXth International Physiological Congress convenes there from August 31 to September 4, 1953, bringing together workers in the fields of physiology, pharmacology, biochemistry, and allied medical sciences. The invitation to meet in Canada was issued by the Canadian Physiological Society, and accepted at the eighteenth congress held in Copenhagen in 1950. The decision recognized outstanding achievements of Canadian investigators in recent years. Montreal was chosen because of its two institutions of higher learning, McGill University and the Université de Montréal.

The international body responsible for the organization of the physiological congresses held the first meeting in Basle, Switzerland, in 1889, under the presidency of Professor F. Miescher. Members in attendance numbered 123, from 13 countries; six came from North America. The meeting attracted a group of outstanding students of that day, including Bowditch, Ewald, Fredericq, Gad, Goltz, Heidenhain, Hermann, His, Horsley, Hürthle, Jaquet, Kronecker, Langley, Langlois, Lombard, Minkowski, Mosso, von Frey, von Kries, and Waller. This distinguished group gave strong support to the organization, which from then on held meetings every three years, with steadily increasing attendance, except when prevented by the two world wars. Congresses convened in Liège (1892), Berne (1895), Cambridge (1898), Turin (1901), Brussels (1904), Heidelberg (1907), Vienna (1910), Gröningen (1913), Paris (1920), Edinburgh (1923), Stockholm (1926), Boston (1929), Rome (1932), Moscow (1935), Zurich (1938), Oxford (1947), and Copenhagen (1950).

Registrations for the coming Congress have reached 1700, from 40 countries. Two-thirds of the members will come from the western hemisphere, chiefly from Canada and the U.S.A. Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, and Venezuela will all be represented. About 400 members are coming from Europe, with substantial groups from Austria,

Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, the Scandinavian countries, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the U.S.S.R., and Yugoslavia. Poland and Czechoslovakia will also be represented. From the Near and Far East will come members from Australia, China, Egypt, Indonesia, India, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, and New Zealand. This broad distribution ensures a significant international meeting.

From a fund raised largely in Canada and the U.S.A., 162 scientists from 34 countries are receiving travel grants. The distribution of money has been made on the recommendation of the appropriate national scientific societies.

The scientific program will be divided into two parts. Fifteen programs on special topics will proceed in lecture rooms at McGill University. Concurrently, seven symposium sessions will be held at the Université de Montréal: Physiological Theories of Learning (K. S. Lashley, U.S.A., Chairman); Hemodynamics in Small Vessels (B. Folkow, Sweden, Chairman); Physiology of Cold (E. F. Dubois, U.S.A., Chairman); Mechanism of Formation of the Thyroid Hormone (J. Roche, France, Chairman); Metabolic Influence of Insulin (B. A. Houssay, Argentina, Chairman); Postural Mechanisms (F. Bremer, Belgium, Chairman); Reflexes from the Cardiac and Pulmonary Areas (C. F. Schmidt, U.S.A., Chairman).

The International Council of Scientific Unions has organized a symposium to be held at the time of the Congress, which will be open to its members, entitled "Future and Limitations of Physiological Research," under the chairmanship of Professor E. D. Adrian of Cambridge, England.

Dr. C. H. Best, Professor of Physiology in the University of Toronto, is chairman of the International Congress Committee and has been elected to serve as President of the Congress. He is well known for his share in the discovery of insulin and for his dietary studies. Dr. F. C. MacIntosh is chairman of the local organizing committee, Dr. E. Robillard is secretary, and Dr. W. F. Denstedt is treasurer.

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