

# Scientific Meetings

## Medical Sciences

The Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) held its third general assembly in Unesco House, Paris, on 30 Sept. and 1 Oct., under the chairmanship of R. E. Tunbridge (United Kingdom).

CIOMS was founded in Brussels in 1949, under the joint auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization, and groups the majority of nongovernmental international organizations in the field of medicine. Its object is to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge in such ways as to promote advances in medical science and to encourage the utilization of such knowledge throughout the world.

Before drawing up the council's program for the years 1956, 1957, and 1958, the assembly reviewed the present-day problems of communication among medical men. Oral communications between scientists were considered first.

The assembly was concerned with the present trend of international congresses and reexamined the real functions of these meetings in the light of the changed situation brought about by specialization and the increased output of scientific research in various fields. On the one hand, the more general congresses are becoming too large and, what is worse, the number of papers read is too great; opportunities for real discussion are all too rare. On the other hand, specialization tends to increase the number of meetings, and these specialized meetings often lose contact with their parent disciplines. Because international congresses are not the media for reporting scientific discoveries, it was agreed that much could be done to improve the opportunities they offer for personal contacts, for disseminating information to a wide international audience, and for arranging international symposia and other related activities.

Symposia were defined as carefully prepared meetings at which 15 to 20 specialists representing various branches of science gather for several days to discuss a clearly defined subject in private or before a small invited audience. They can be held independently, but they are well suited to be organized several days before a congress. A *rapporteur* can bring

to the larger audience of the congress the conclusions of the smaller group. Special symposia can also be organized in countries in the process of development; they constitute an excellent way of stimulating research and may thus lead to the better practice of medicine.

Written communications were also discussed. It was agreed that there is much duplication between indexing and abstracting services. The difficulties of achieving over-all coordination were stressed but it was thought that action of limited scope should be undertaken whenever opportunities arise. Standardization of terminology is an important activity that the council will continue to encourage as it did in the case of anatomy.

The assembly decided to promote through the council's membership a clearer recognition of the present-day functions of international congresses, a flexible coordination of congresses of related disciplines, a shift from individual participation to group participation through preconference working parties and symposia or by the appointment of experts to make digests of related communications, a greater participation of young research workers, and the holding after a congress of special international courses for the host country, in particular cases.

It was decided that the council should continue its policy of organizing symposia on both general subjects and especially important areas of research and that it should stimulate the organization of preconference symposia and scientific meetings in underdeveloped countries.

The assembly also instructed the executive committee to explore the possibilities of initiating a program in geopathology. Other business carried out by the assembly included the following items: (i) admission of new member organizations; (ii) election of new members of the executive committee; (iii) appointment of an internal policy board to make recommendations concerning a possible regrouping of member organizations, amendments to the council's statutes, and the appointment of a finance committee to raise funds.

J. F. DELAFRESNAYE

*Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences, Paris.*

## Meeting Notes

■ A Study Group on Atherosclerosis, the first of its kind to be convened by the World Health Organization, met in Geneva, 7–11 Nov. Participants included 15 specialists from France, Great Britain, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United States. Herman E. Hilleboe, Commissioner of Health of the State of New York, was chairman.

Degenerative disease of the heart and arteries is the most frequent cause of death in North America, in most of Europe, and among the more prosperous communities in many parts of the world. The findings of the study group are expected to indicate what directions may be most profitably followed in the field of research and what role WHO can play in correlating the investigations that are carried out in many different countries.

The exact cause of atherosclerosis is unknown but it is believed that three important factors, either singly or in combination, are largely responsible for the disease: a diet too rich in fat, emotional stress, and lack of physical exercise. These were considered by the study group, along with other possible factors, including the use of alcohol and tobacco, sex differences, heredity, constitution, metabolic disorders, intoxicants, infections, and hypertension.

Because the origin of degenerative heart disease is obscure, many points of attack must be envisaged. The WHO study group therefore included experts in epidemiology, statistics, public health, cardiology, pathology, physiology, biochemistry, and nutrition.

■ The 69th meeting of the American Association of Anatomists, by invitation of the Marquette University Medical School, will be held in Milwaukee, Wis., 4–6 Apr. Titles and abstracts of papers, demonstrations, and motion pictures, and demonstration specification cards must be mailed in time to reach the program secretary, Dr. O. P. Jones, University of Buffalo, 3435 Main St., Buffalo 14, N.Y., *not later than 9 Jan.*

■ An International Congress of Clinical Chemistry is to be held in New York City, 9–14 Sept. 1956, by authorization of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and the Commission of Clinical Chemistry of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry. Additional information may be obtained by writing to the congress secretary, Dr. John G. Reinhold, 711 Maloney Bldg., Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia 4, Pa., U.S.A.

■ The ninth Postgraduate Assembly in Anesthesiology, the annual scientific meeting of the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists, was held at the

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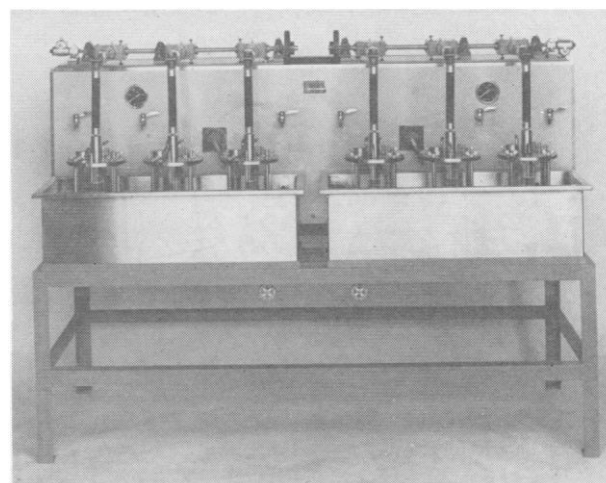
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Hotel New Yorker, 7-10 Dec. Many specialists in anesthesiology and allied fields of medicine conducted panels in "Management of major traumatic injuries," "The electroencephalogram as a tool in anesthesia," "Management of comatose patients," "Present advances in neuropharmacology," "Spinal anesthesia," "Carbon dioxide effects on respiration and circulation," "Pain," and "Cardiac physiology and/or pharmacology." These annual scientific sessions have become the best attended international meetings in this specialty, which this year is celebrating the 50th year of organized anesthesia in this country.

■ Short cuts in time and distance that automation makes possible were demonstrated by exhibits at the International Automation Exposition at Navy Pier, Chicago, Ill., 14-17 Nov. More than 150 exhibitors showed automatic control systems, electronic computers, data-handling equipment, conveyors, counters, communication systems, industrial television, photoelectric controls, positioning equipment, scanning systems, speed controls, automatic production lines, automatic components, servomechanisms, switches, relays, and other electric components.

Forty-one companies at the exposition showed data-handling equipment such as

computers, machine controls, and memory-storage units. Much literature was available on the functions of the various components and material on automation and what it means was freely distributed. In addition to the exhibits, nine clinics were held daily on electronic computers, and four were held on conveyors.

Farrand Optical Company displayed an automatically operated milling machine with a keyboard that stores 15 complete operations. By using a punched tape, instructions and dimensions of the parts the machine makes could be sent by an electronic communication system to any factory in the world with similar equipment in probably less than an hour, according to a company spokesman. Richard Rimbach, exposition manager, commented that different languages are no barrier with punch or magnetic tapes and electronic communication systems that handle messages by a code system.

A time saver in the chemical field was exhibited by Precision Scientific Company. This company displayed an automatic chemical analyzer that eliminates such tasks as stirring and continual observation of laboratory work in progress.

An exhibit by the Counter and Control Corporation demonstrated how the programming and automatic recycling of complex switching functions are accomplished by electromechanical means.

A rival to transistors and magnetic cores, the magnistor, was demonstrated by Potter Instrument Company. The new magnetic element is designed for use in high-speed computers, business data-handling systems, automation-control systems, high-speed counters, and magnetic tape systems.

### Forthcoming Events

#### January

12. British Columbia Acad. of Science, Vancouver, Canada. (W. J. Polglase, Dept. of Biochemistry, Univ. of British Columbia, Vancouver 8.)

12-14. Use of Isotopes in Agriculture, East Lansing, Mich. (E. W. Phelan, Argonne National Lab., Lemont, Ill.)

16-18. Documentation Conf., Cleveland, Ohio. (J. H. Shera, School of Library Science, Western Reserve Univ., Cleveland 6.)

17-20. American Pomological Soc., Rochester, N.Y. (R. B. Tukey, Horticulture Dept., Purdue Univ., Lafayette, Ind.)

20-27. Pan American Cong. of Gastroenterology, 5th, Havana, Cuba. (N. M. Stapler, 1267 J. E. Uriburu, Buenos Aires, Argentina.)

23-26. American Soc. of Heating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Cincinnati, Ohio. (A. V. Hutchinson, ASHAE, 62 Worth St., New York 13.)

23-27. Inst. of Aeronautical Sciences,

New York, N.Y. (S. P. Johnston, IAS, 2 E. 64 St., New York 21.)

26-27. Western Spectroscopy Assoc. 3rd annual, Berkeley, Calif. (J. W. Otvos, Shell Development Co., Emeryville, Calif.)

27-28. Conf. on Protein Metabolism, 12th annual, New Brunswick, N.J. (W. H. Cole, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick.)

27-28. Western Soc. for Clinical Research, 9th annual, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Calif. (A. J. Seaman, Univ. of Oregon Medical School, Portland 1.)

30-1. International Conf. on Fatigue in Aircraft Structures, New York, N.Y. (A. M. Freudenthal, 716 Engineering, Columbia Univ., New York 27.)

30-3. American Inst. of Electrical Engineers, New York, N.Y. (N. S. Hibshman, AIEE, 33 W. 39 St., New York 18.)

31-3. American Soc. of Sugar Beet Technologists, 9th biennial conf., San Francisco, Calif. (Western Beet Sugar Producers, Inc., 461 Market St., San Francisco 5.)

31-4. American Physical Soc., New York, N.Y. (K. K. Darrow, Columbia Univ., New York 27.)

## February

1. National Advisory Committee on Local Health Depts., 8th annual, New York, N.Y. (National Health Council, 1790 Broadway, New York 19.)

1-2. Armour Research Foundation Midwest Welding Conf., Chicago, Ill. (H. Schwartzbart, Armour Research Foundation, Illinois Inst. of Technology, Chicago.)

1-3. Case Studies in Operations Research, Cleveland, Ohio. (Operations Research Group, Dept. of Engineering Administration, Case Inst. of Technology, 10900 Euclid Ave., Cleveland 6.)

2-3. National Symposium on Microwave Techniques, Philadelphia, Pa. (S. M. King, Inst. of Radio Engineers, 1 E. 79 St., New York 21.)

5-8. National Citizens' Planning Conf., Washington, D.C. (Miss H. James, 901 Union Trust Bldg., Washington 5.)

9-10. Soc. of American Military Engineers, annual, Chicago, Ill. (D. A. Sullivan, 72 W. Adams St., Chicago 90.)

16-17. National Conf. on Transistor Circuits, 3rd, Philadelphia, Pa. (J. D. Chapline, Remington Rand, Inc., 2300 W. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia 29.)

19-23. American Inst. of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, New York, N.Y. (E. O. Kirkendall, AIME, 29 W. 39 St., New York 18.)

19-23. Soc. of Economic Geologists, New York, N.Y. (O. N. Rove, Union Carbide and Carbon Corp., New York 17.)

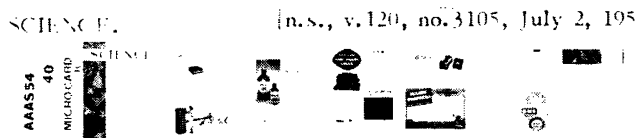
20-22. American Educational Research Assoc., annual, Atlantic City, N.J. (F. W. Hubbard, AERA, 1201 16 St., NW, Washington 6.)

23-25. National Soc. of College Teachers of Education, Chicago, Ill. (C. A. Eggertsen, School of Education, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor.)

24-25. American Physical Soc. Houston, Tex. (K. K. Darrow, APS, Columbia Univ., New York 27.)

26-29. American Inst. of Chemical Engineers, Los Angeles, Calif. (F. J. Van

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28-29. Scintillation Counter Symposium, 5th, Washington, D.C. (G. A. Morton, RCA Laboratories, Princeton, N.J.)

### March

12-16. National Assoc. of Corrosion Engineers, 12th annual, New York, N.Y. (Secretary, NACE, Southern Standard Bldg., Houston 2, Tex.)

14-17. National Science Teachers Assoc., Washington, D.C. (R. H. Carleton, NSTA, 1201 16 St., NW, Washington 6.)

15-16. Food Physics Symposium, 1st international, San Antonio, Tex. (C. W. Smith, Southwest Research Inst., San Antonio.)

15-17. American Orthopsychiatric Assoc., 33rd annual, New York, N.Y. (M. F. Langer, AOA, 1790 Broadway, New York 19.)

15-17. American Physical Soc., Pittsburgh, Pa. (K. K. Darrow, APS, Columbia Univ., New York 27.)

15-17. Kappa Delta Pi. annual, Stillwater, Okla. (E. I. F. Williams, 238 E. Perry St., Tiffin, Ohio.)

16-18. International Assoc. for Dental Research, St. Louis, Mo. (D. Y. Burrill, 129 E. Broadway, Louisville 2, Ky.)

18-24. American Soc. of Photogrammetry, annual, joint meeting with American Cong. on Surveying and Mapping, Washington, D.C. (ACSM-ASP, Box 470, Washington 4.)

19-22. American Acad. of General Practice Scientific Assembly, 8th annual, Washington, D.C. (AAGP, Broadway at 34th, Kansas City 11, Mo.)

19-22. Inst. of Radio Engineers National Convention, New York, N.Y. (E. K. Gamett, IRE, 1 E. 79 St., New York 21.)

19-23. American Soc. of Tool Engineers, Chicago, Ill. (H. C. Miller, Armour Research Foundation, 35 W. 33 St., Chicago 16.)

21-22. National Health Forum, New York, N.Y. (T. G. Klumpp, National Health Council, 1790 Broadway, New York 19.)

21-23. American Power Conf., 18th annual, Chicago, Ill. (R. A. Budenholzer, Illinois Inst. of Technology, Chicago 16.)

23-24. Eastern Psychological Assoc., Atlantic City, N.J. (G. G. Lane, Univ. of Delaware, Newark.)

24-25. American Psychosomatic Soc., 13th annual, Boston, Mass. (T. Lidz, APS, 551 Madison Ave., New York 22.)

24-31. Perspectives in Marine Biology, La Jolla, Calif. (A. A. Buzzati-Traverso, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla.)

25-28. American Assoc. of Dental Schools, annual, St. Louis, Mo. (M. W. McCrea, 42 S. Greene St., Baltimore 1, Md.)

25-29. American College Personnel Assoc., Washington, D.C. (Miss C. M. Northrup, Univ. of Denver, Denver, Colo.)

28-3. Colloquium on Frontiers in Physical Optics, Boston, Mass. (S. S. Ballard, Visibility Lab., Scripps Institution of Oceanography, San Diego 52, Calif.)

29-31. Pennsylvania Acad. of Science, Indiana. (K. Dearolf, Public Museum and Art Gallery, Reading, Pa.)

29-31. Southern Soc. for Philosophy and Psychology, Asheville, N.C. (J. E. Moore, Georgia Inst. of Technology, Atlanta.)

29-31. Symposium on Fundamental Cancer Research, 10th annual, Houston, Tex. (G. Taylor, Univ. of Texas Postgraduate School of Medicine, Houston 25.)

30-31. Alabama Acad. of Science, annual, Montevallo. (H. A. McCullough, Howard College, Birmingham, Ala.)

### April

2-5. Assoc. of American Geographers, annual, Montreal, Canada. (B. W. Adkinson, Library of Congress, Washington 25.)

2-7. Symposium on Crystallography, Madrid, Spain. (M. Abbad, Serrano 118, Madrid.)

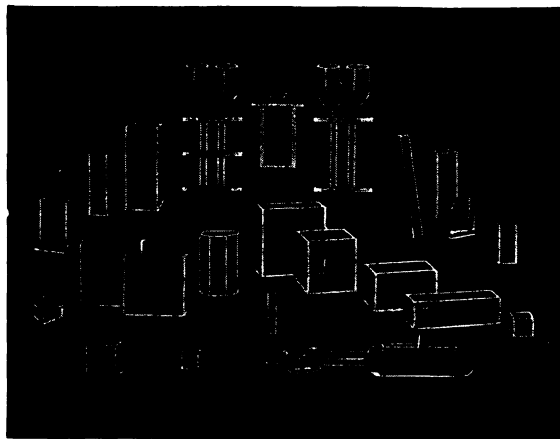
3-9. International Symposium on Macromolecular Chemistry, Rehovoth, Jerusalem, and Haifa, Israel. (A. Katchalsky, Weizmann Inst. of Science, Rehovoth.)

4-6. American Assoc. of Anatomists, annual, Milwaukee, Wis. (N. L. Hoerr, 2109 Adelbert Rd., Cleveland 6, Ohio.)

4-8. International Cong. of Radiophotography, 2nd, Paris, France. (The Congress, Via Nazionale 200, Rome, Italy.)

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6-7. American Assoc. of University Professors, St. Louis, Mo. (R. E. Himstead, AAUP, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 6.)

6-7. National Speleological Soc., Nashville, Tenn. (Mrs. L. Cutler, 2829 Buchanan St., Arlington 6, Va.)

6-8. American Assoc. of Physical Anthropologists, Chicago, Ill. (J. L. Angel, Daniel Baugh Inst. of Anatomy, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia 7, Pa.)

7-8. American Soc. of Hospital Pharmacists, Detroit, Mich. (Miss G. Niemeyer, 2215 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington 7.)

8. American College of Apothecaries, Detroit, Mich. (R. E. Abrams, Hamilton Court, Philadelphia 4, Pa.)

8-10. American Assoc. of Colleges of Pharmacy, Detroit, Mich. (R. A. Deno, College of Pharmacy, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor.)

8-13. American Chemical Soc., Dallas, Tex. (A. H. Emery, ACS, 1155 16 St., NW, Washington 6.)

8-13. American Pharmaceutical Assoc., annual, Detroit, Mich. (R. P. Fischelis, APA, 2215 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington 7.)

9-11. American Assoc. of Feed Microscopists, annual, Terre Haute, Ind. (R. C. Wornick, Agricultural Research Dept., Chas. Pfizer & Co., Inc., Terre Haute.)

9-12. International Anesthesia Research Soc., 30th annual cong., Miami Beach, Fla. (R. J. Whiteacre, 13951 Terrace Rd., Cleveland 12, Ohio.)

10-11. Symposium for Management on Applications of Analog Computers, Kansas City, Mo. (O. Fanning, Midwest Research Inst., 425 Volker Blvd., Kansas City 10.)

14. South Carolina Acad. of Science, annual, Clemson, S.C. (H. W. Freeman, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia.)

15-16. American Soc. for Artificial Internal Organs, Atlantic City, N.J. (P. F. Salisbury, Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, 4751 Fountain Ave., Los Angeles 29, Calif.)

15-20. American Soc. for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, Atlantic City, N.J. (C. C. Pfeiffer, Emory Univ. School of Medicine, Emory University, Ga.)

15-21. American Inst. of Nutrition, Atlantic City, N.J. (R. W. Engel, Virginia Polytechnic Inst., Blacksburg.)

15-21. American Physiological Soc., Atlantic City, N.J. (M. O. Lee, 9650 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Washington 14.)

15-21. American Soc. for Experimental Pathology, annual, Atlantic City, N.J. (C. C. Erickson, 858 Madison Ave., Memphis, Tenn.)

15-21. Federation of American Societies

for Experimental Biology, Atlantic City, N.J. (M. O. Lee, 9650 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Washington 14.)

16-18. Aero Medical Assoc., 27th annual, Chicago, Ill. (J. P. Marbarger, Aeromedical and Physical Environment Lab., Univ. of Illinois, Chicago.)

16-20. American Assoc. of Immunologists, Atlantic City, N.J. (F. S. Cheever, Graduate School of Public Health, Univ. of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh 13, Pa.)

16-20. American Soc. of Biological Chemists, Atlantic City, N.J. (P. Handler, Dept. of Biochemistry, Duke Univ., Durham, N.C.)

18-20. National Industrial Research Conf., Chicago, Ill. (V. J. Danilov, Illinois Inst. of Technology, 35 W. 33 St., Chicago, 16.)

19-21. Assoc. of Southeastern Biologists, Durham, N.C. (J. C. Dickinson, Univ. of Florida, Gainesville.)

19-21. Ohio Acad. of Science, 65th annual, Springfield. (R. W. Dexter, Kent State Univ., Kent, Ohio.)

20-21. Iowa Acad. of Science, Grinnell. (J. L. Laffoon, Iowa State College, Ames.)

20-21. Nebraska Acad. of Science, 66th annual, Lincoln. (M. Beckmann, Univ. of Nebraska, Lincoln.)

22-26. American Ceramic Soc., 58th annual, New York, N.Y. (C. S. Pearce, 4055 N. High St., Columbus 14, Ohio.)

23-25. National Acad. of Sciences, annual, Washington, D.C. (NAS, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington 25.)