Meetings and Societies

Harvey Tercentenary

William Harvey, the discoverer of the circulation of the blood, died on 3 June 1657. Probably there has never been, since that date, an occasion more suitable than the present for a complete "Review of the present knowledge of the circulation," the theme which dominated and guided the discussions of the Harvey Tercentenary Congress in London, 3–8 June 1957. It is only during the past 30 years that methods have been introduced whereby the varying composition of the blood in different parts of hitherto inaccessible vessels can be accurately ascertained. The polythene catheter (a comparatively recent invention), introduced into a superficial vein, can safely be passed into the venae cavae and into the heart itself to provide necessary samples of blood. Comparatively recent, also, is the development of arteriography whereby, after the injection of radioopaque substances into the blood stream, radiographs will give accurate and detailed pictures of the distribution of the arterial supply. This has proved to be of vital importance in the diagnosis of many conditions which previously could only be found after surgical exploration. Moreover, during the past three decades considerable advances have taken place in the recording and interpretation of the electrical changes which occur in different cardiac conditions.

The most striking and revolutionary advances have, however, taken place in the surgery of the heart and the great blood vessels. All who were privileged to attend the congress sessions on the surgery of the heart and the surgery of the peripheral circulation must have been aware that operations can now be successfully performed which 30 years ago would have been deemed foolhardy and impossible. This has been made possible by many improvements, of which the outstanding advance is that of the production of hypothermia. A priori, the lowering of the temperature of the body should be harmful and add to the shock of an operation. Practically, it makes possible certain operations on the heart and large blood vessels by slowing down all the activities of the body, and, by lessening the demand for blood, diminishing the force and volume of the blood flow. Hypothermia, however, has itself only been rendered possible by the introduction of drugs which, when given to the patient, paralyze the muscles and prevent the violent shivering which would otherwise inevitably follow.

A consideration of the foregoing facts will enable readers to see how appropriate and even necessary was the congress which met early in June. The meetings were held mainly in the spacious halls of the Royal College of Surgeons. There were nine scientific sessions, all interesting and informative. The opening session, after an interesting talk on Harvey by the president, Dickson Wright, consisted of a historical review to which contributions were made by J. F. Fulton, K. J. Franklin, Charles Dodds, and F. A. Willius (whose paper was read *in absentia*). Franklin's contribution to the congress was much greater than the mere giving of a paper. At the request of the Royal College of Physicians, he had made a new, elegant, and accurate translation of the *De Motu Cordis,* which, happily, was published in time for the congress. At the commemorative dinner at the Dorchester Hotel, every man present was presented with a copy of this, the latest (and we think the best) translation of this epoch-making book.

At the second session, with Pickering in the chair, the speakers were L. W. Katz, K. Matthes, and Weidmann, who considered varied aspects of the role of the heart in circulation. The discussion was followed by a film, made by Paul Wood, which showed the jugular venous pulse.

On the second day, the morning session was taken up by consideration of hemodynamics. Heymans, of Ghent, discussed the role of the aortic and carotid sinus baroreceptors, and Gustav Nylin gave the results of his studies, in which, by following the fate of labeled erythrocytes, the variations in the blood flow in the heart, lungs, and brain are revealed. The afternoon session dealt with the coronary circulation, and here the chairman, Claude S. Beck of Cleveland, Ohio, described and explained the well-known operation for improving the coronary circulation which he advocates. G. A. Mason described his modification of the operation.

The morning of the third day was occupied by a discussion on the pulmonary circulation, in which André Cournaud was the chief speaker. In the afternoon there took place what was perhaps the most remarkable medical meeting ever held. The subject was the "Results of cardiac surgery," and Clement Price Thomas was in the chair. G. d'Allaines spoke first, on the results of the surgical treatment of mitral stenosis. Then followed J. M. H. Campbell, who considered, from the physician's point of view, the results of surgical treatment of coarctation of the aorta and pulmonary stenosis. Finally, in a masterly address, Russell Brock gave a detailed account of the results of his own operations for pulmonary stenosis. These papers were memorable in themselves, but what made the meeting unique was the introduction, by means of transatlantic radiotelephone, of a discussion between a panel of British speakers on the platform and a panel of equally eminent men speaking from the New York annual meeting of the American Medical Association. Enlarged photographs of the members of the American panel were in full view of the audience, and a red light indicated who was speaking. The voices came through well and were easily audible to all members of the audience. This session, by itself, would make the congress memorable.

The fourth day of the congress was occupied by discussions on the cerebral and splanchnic circulation. Sheila Sherlock gave an able paper on the portal circulation and portal hypertension, which was followed by an eloquent address by Milnes Walker who, basing his doctrine on his own experience, laid down clear indications and contraindications for the operative treatment of portal hypertension.

The final scientific session was devoted to the peripheral circulation. Barcroft considered the physiology of the peripheral circulation. He showed that factors other than nervous reflexes were concerned and explained how the local effect of warmth in the skin was to release a substance (which has been called "bradykinin") which causes a dilatation of the blood vessels and increases the secretion of sweat. Paton discussed the innervation of the blood vessels and Dible discussed their pathological changes. The final paper of this session was that of Rob, who gave the results obtained in his clinic by the operative treatment of occlusive arterial disease; this address —clear, concise, and moderate in tone but remarkable in the results demonstrated—was a fitting conclusion to the

last session. In the afternoon, Russell Brain brought the scientific congress to an end by a well-delivered and appropriate address.

In between the scientific meetings, and each day after they were concluded, many ceremonial and social functions occupied the attention of the members of the congress. There were receptions given by Her Majesty's Government and by the Royal College of Physicians, a banquet at the Dorchester Hotel, and a reception given by the Harveian Society at Gray's Inn (of which William Harvey was a member), and there were special meetings of the Osler Club and of the historical section of the Royal Society of Medicine, at which an address written by Fulton was read for him.

William Harvey was born at Folkestone and had his schooling at King's College School, Canterbury. A special meeting was held on Saturday, 8 June, at Folkestone, over which Geoffrey Keynes presided and at which a series of very interesting papers, with many new facts, was presented.

On Saturday afternoon, many members of the congress attended a special service held at Canterbury Cathedral, at which the present headmaster of the school which Harvey attended as a boy preached the sermon. In the evening there was a commemorative dinner at the Hotel Metropole in Folkestone, and on Sunday morning, after matins at the parish church, a procession was formed and proceeded to the statue of William Harvey, at the foot of which a commemorative wreath was laid.

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Kansan Glaciation in Indiana

The eighth annual field conference of the Midwestern Friends of the Pleistocene was held 26–28 Apr. in south-central Indiana. Headquarters were at Indiana University, Bloomington. The field trips were under the leadership of William D. Thornbury (department of geology, Indiana University) and William J. Wayne (Indiana Geological Survey). The conference was attended by about 87 people, mainly geologists and soil scientists, from Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, the District of Columbia, and Ontario.

The major objective of the field conference was to present evidence of extensive Kansan glaciation in Indiana. Exposures of Kansan till, loess, and lacustrine deposits indicate a striking similarity in the extent of Kansan and Illinoian glaciation in Indiana. Ice lobes extended into southwestern and southeastern Indiana during both glaciations. In one known locality, Kansan till is the outermost till, and it is therefore no longer safe to assume that the glacial boundary in Indiana everywhere coincides with the limits of Illinoian glaciation. It seems probable, now, that the erratics in Kentucky that were described by Frank Leverett in "The Pleistocene of northern Kentucky" [*Kentucky Geol. Survey ser. 6* **31**, 1 (1929)] are Kansan in age rather than Nebraskan, as was suggested by F. T. Thwaites in *Outline of Glacial Geology* [Edwards, Ann Arbor, Mich. (1946), plate 3].

The field conference also included the observation of several sections in which buried soils, developed upon Illinoian drift, are exposed, as well as two points at which Wisconsin interstadial silts and organic material separate two early Wisconsin (presumably Shelbyville and Champaign) tills, whose exact age determination awaits radiocarbon dating.

WILLIAM D. THORNBURY
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NSF Supports Travel to Pacific Science Congress

The National Science Foundation is cooperating with the Pacific Science Board of the National Academy of Sciences in the support of travel of American scientists to the 9th Pacific Science Congress to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, 18 Nov.–9 Dec. Because of the limitation in availability of funds, the number and size of awards will be extremely small. Those interested should apply by letter to the Pacific Science Board, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington 25, D.C., *no later than 31 Aug.* No special application blanks are necessary. Applicants will be screened by a joint committee in early September and those recommended for grants will be notified by the foundation on approximately 15 Sept.

Free Radicals Symposium

Twenty technical papers are scheduled for presentation at the Symposium on the Formation and Stabilization of Free Radicals, to be held at the National Bureau of Standards, 18–20 Sept. Sponsored jointly by NBS, the University of Maryland, the Catholic University of America, and the Applied Physics Laboratory of Johns Hopkins University, the meeting will be devoted primarily to discussions of current research on the properties of systems containing trapped atoms and radicals. This new field of study is expected to have important applications in both science and engineering.

Because of the limited seating capacity of the NBS auditorium, attendance at the symposium is by invitation, and preregistration is required. Inquiries should be addressed to the chairman of the symposium committee, Dr. A. M. Bass, Free Radicals Research Section, National Bureau of Standards, Washington 25, D. C.

International Congress of Radiology

The ninth International Congress of Radiology will be held in Munich, Germany, from 23 to 30 July 1959. The international committee for the congress has elected Boris Rajewsky, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, as president. The general secretary is Hans v. Braunbehrens, Munich. Viktor Loeck is executive secretary of the congress. Further information may be obtained from the *Kongressekretariat, Forsthausstrasse* 76, *Frankfurt am Main, Germany.*

Forthcoming Events

September

1–6. Laurentian Hormone Conf., AAAS, Mont Tremblant, Quebec, Canada. (G. Pincus, LHC, 222 Maple Ave., Shrewsbury, Mass.)

1–7. Psychiatry, 2nd world cong., Zurich, Switzerland. (J. Wyrsch, Tottikon, Stans, Nidwald, Switzerland.)

1–16. Aeronautical Conf., 6th internatl., London and Folkestone, Kent, England. (S. P. Johnston, Inst. of Aeronautical Sciences, 2 E. 64 St., New York 21.)

2–5. American Physiological Soc., Iowa City, Iowa. (M. O. Lee, 9650 Wisconsin Ave., Washington 14.)

2–5. Passivity, internatl. symp., Darmstadt, Germany. (German Bunsen Gesellschaft, Postfach 11, Duisburg, Germany.)

2–6. Operational Research, internatl. conf., Oxford, England. (T. Page, 7100 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase, Md.)

2–16. Carbon-14 Dating, 3rd internatl. conf., in conjunction with INQUA, Madrid-Barcelona, Spain. (M. Rubin, U.S. Geological Survey, Washington 25.)

2–16. International Assoc. on Quaternary Research, 5th internatl. cong., Madrid-Barcelona, Spain. (M. L. Solé Sabarís, Instituto Geológico, Universidad, Barcelona.)

3–4. Meteoritical Soc., 20th annual, Los Angeles, Calif. (J. A. Russell, 3518 University Ave., Los Angeles 7.)

3–6. Calorimetry Conf., 12th, Wentworth-by-the-Sea, N.H. (H. A. Boorse, Pupin Physics Lab., Columbia Univ., New York, N.Y.)

3–6. Matrix Computations Conf., Detroit, Mich. (W. Givens, Dept. of Mathematics, Wayne State Univ., Detroit 2.)

3–14. International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, 11th general assembly, Toronto, Ont., Canada. (J. A. Jacobs, 49 St. George St., Toronto.)

4–5. Society of General Physiologists,

annual, Woods Hole, Mass. (A. M. Shanes, NIH, Bethesda 14, Md.)

4–6. Latency and Masking in Viral and Rickettsial Infections, symp., Madison, Wis. (A. S. Evans, Div. of Preventive Medicine, Univ. of Wisconsin Medical School, Madison 6.)

4–6. Magnetic Amplifiers, technical conf., Pittsburgh, Pa. (G. F. Pittman, Jr., Westinghouse Electric Corp., P. O. Box 10596, Pittsburgh 35.)

4–7. American Soc. for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, Baltimore, Md. (P. K. Smith, George Washington Univ. School of Medicine, Washington 5.)

4–11. British Assoc. for the Advancement of Science, 119th annual, Dublin, Ireland. (Secretary, BAAS, Burlington House, London, W.1, England.)

5–7. American Physical Soc., Boulder, Colo. (W. A. Nierenberg, Univ. of California, Berkeley 4.)

5–7. American Political Science Assoc., natl., New York, N.Y. (E. M. Kirkpatrick, APSA, 1726 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 6.)

6–12. Medicine and Social Hygiene, internatl. symp., Trieste. (M. Lovenati, via Cavana 18, Trieste.)

7–14. Odontostomatology, 12th internatl. cong., Rome, Italy. (G. Corradi, 16 via Boezio, Rome.)

7–14. Sociology, 17th internatl. cong., Beirut, Lebanon. (G. Gini, via Adige 39, Rome, Italy.)

8–12. International College of Surgeons, 22nd annual, Chicago, Ill. (K. A. Meyer, ICS, 1516 Lake Shore Dr., Chicago 10.)

8–13. American Assoc. of Clinical Chemists, annual, New York, N.Y. (M. M. Friedman, Lebanon Hospital, New York 57.)

8–13. American Chemical Soc., New York, N.Y. (A. H. Emery, ACS, 1155 16 St., NW, Washington 6.)

8–13. Nuclear Structure, internatl. conf. (IUPAP), Rehovoth, Israel. (A. de Shalit, Weizmann Inst. of Science, Rehovoth.)

8–15. International Cong. of Crop Protection, 4th, Hamburg, Germany. (Biologische Bundesanstalt für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Messeweg 11–12, Braunschweig, Germany.)

9–11. Electron Microscope Soc. of America, annual, Cambridge, Mass. (D. M. Teague, Chrysler Corp., Box 1118, Detroit 31, Mich.)

9–11. Quantitative Methods of Mammalian Cell Culture, 2nd annual, Denver, Colo. (Office of Graduate and Postgraduate Education, Univ. of Colorado Medical Center, Denver 20.)

9–13. Illuminating Engineering Soc., annual, Atlanta, Ga. (A. D. Hinckley, IES, 1860 Broadway, New York 23.)

9–13. Instrument Automation Conf., 12th annual, Cleveland, Ohio. (Instrument Soc. of America, 313 Sixth Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.)

9–13. Neutron Interaction with Nuclei, internatl. conf. of IUPAP, New York. (W. W. Havens, Pupin Cyclotron Lab., Columbia Univ., 538 W. 120 St., New York 27.)

9–15. Macromolecular Chemistry, internatl. symp., IUPAC, Prague, Czechoslovakia. (Secretariat, ISMC, 5, Technická, Prague 6.)

9–20. Radio-Isotopes in Research, UNESCO conf., Paris, France. (UNESCO House, 19, avenue Kléber, Paris 16e.)

10–13. Alaskan Science Conf., 8th, Anchorage. (C. J. Beers, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, College, Alaska.)

10–13. American Statistical Assoc., annual, Atlantic City, N.J. (D. C. Riley, ASA, 1757 K St., NW, Washington 6.)

10–13. Biometric Soc., Eastern North American region, Atlantic City, N.J. (A. M. Dutton, Box 287, Sta. 3, Rochester, N.Y.)

10–13. Econometric Soc., Atlantic City, N.J. (R. Ruggles, Dept. of Economics, Yale Univ., New Haven, Conn.)

10–13. Institute of Mathematical Statistics, annual, Atlantic City, N.J. (G. E. Nicholson, Jr., Dept. of Statistics, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.)

14–15. Minnesota Acad. of Science, Cedar Creek Forest. (M. R. Boudrye, 51 University Ave., St. Paul 3, Minn.)

15–18. American Inst. of Chemical Engineers, natl., Baltimore, Md. (F. J. Van Antwerpen, AIChE, 25 W. 45 St., New York 36.)

16–21. Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology, 7th internatl. cong., Barcelona, Spain. (J. M. Vilardell, Avenida Jose Antonio 654, Barcelona.)

(See issue of 19 July for comprehensive list)