Meetings

Bioclimatology

The second scientific congress of the International Society of Bioclimatology and Biometeorology was held in the chambers of the Royal Society of Medicine, in London, from 5 to 10 September 1960. There were 172 members attending, from 26 countries. The program represented an important departure from that of the first congress (held in Vienna in 1957), and perhaps from programs of most other national and international societies.

Productive exchange of viewpoints within an interdisciplinary field such as bioclimatology is not greatly encouraged by marathons of brief technical communications. Rather, lively discussion of basic concepts, problems, and methodology leads to important cross-fertilization and growth of ideas. To this end, the executive board designed a program aimed at stimulating discussion both on broad problems and on technical matters. On each of four mornings a basic theme was discussed by three speakers, each representing a different background. The speakers were instructed to concentrate on major unsettled issues and their possible resolution. One or several moderators then initiated discussion of the themes and suggestions raised by the main speakers.

The subjects of these four sessions and the speakers were as follows:

1) "High-altitude Bioclimatology": R. Margaria (University of Milan), W. H. Weihe (University of Bern), and R. Schindler (Bernhard-Nocht-Institut, Hamburg).

2) "Tropical Bioclimatology": A. B. Hertzmann (St. Louis University School of Medicine), J. C. D. Hutchinson (Ian Clunies Ross Animal Research Laboratory, Parramatta, Australia), P. W. Richards (University College of North Wales), and C. P. Luck (Kampala, Uganda).

3) "Bioclimatological Classifications": H. Boyko (Negev Institute for Arid Zone Research, Beersheva, Israel), K. J. K. Buettner (University of Washington, Seattle), and H. Jusatz (Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften).

4) "Meteoro-pathological Forecasting": P. M. A. Bourke (Irish Meteorological Service), M. Crawford (Commonwealth Bureau of Animal Health, Great Britain), and Frederick Sargent, II (University of Illinois).

As might have been anticipated, the sessions were not uniformly successful. General discussion was frequently limited because there were too many moderators and because the moderators gave their own views instead of leading the discussion. When these problems were avoided, the discussion was lively and productive. Provision had been made for simultaneous translation, and this gave a considerable measure of freedom in discussion. Most of the attending members considered the program a great success, and it was voted that the discussions planned for the 1963 congress should be held in a similar manner.

During the afternoons, participants joined specialized working groups on restricted technical subjects. These groups worked under a moderator, and few formal communications were presented. The members of the groups discussed their own work and attempted to define both the problems and the general implications of current advances in their special areas. In this way they discussed thermoregulation; atmospheric pollution and aerobiology; agrometeorology; the effects of weather and climate on cattle; urban and architectural climatology; the importance of physical environment in conditioning the organism; microclimatic problems; allergic diseases, with special emphasis on the influence of climate on bronchial asthma; ecological climatography; the biological effects of ionization of the air; chemical tests used in bioclimatological research; tropical bioclimatology; and solar radiation in relation to bioclimatology. These discussions were highly successful and will be continued during future meetings.

The scientific caliber of the formal presentations and the discussions was refreshingly high, and there was a distinctly experimental note. The membership seemed ready to come to grips with mesological mechanisms rather than indulge in speculations arising from chance bioclimatological relationships. In particular, the discussion of human bioclimatology was stimulating and sound.

At the business meeting the following executive board was elected: president, F. Sargent, II (United States); vice presidents, M. P. A. Bourke (Ireland), H. Boyke (Israel), and M. Fontaine (France); advisory members, J. L. Cloudsey-Thompson (Sudan) and W. G. Wellington (Canada); and secretary-treasurer, S. W. Tromp (Netherlands). At the business meeting it was also decided that in future the *Journal of Bioclimatology* will be devoted to reviews. There is a great need for critical appraisals of many aspects of bioclimatology, and no current periodical deals extensively with this important field. It was further decided that a publications committee should explore ways of working with abstracting services and in other ways attempt to provide greater access to the diverse literature of the field.

The proceedings of the congress will

be published in book form by Pergamon Press. They will be available early in 1961 at a cost of approximately $10, either from the secretariat of the society at Hofbrouckerlaan 54, Oegstgeest (Leiden), Netherlands, or from the publisher.

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Forthcoming Events

March

24–29. National Science Teachers Assoc., Chicago, Ill. (R. H. Carleton, NSTA, 1201 16th St., NW, Washington 6)

26–29. American Assoc. of Dental Schools, annual, Boston, Mass. (R. H. Sullens, 840 N. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago 11, Ill.)

27–31. Temperature—Its Measurement and Control in Science and Industry, natl. symp., Columbus, Ohio. (C. M. Herzfeld, National Bureau of Standards, Washington 25, D.C.)

30–1. Southern Soc. for Philosophy and Psychology, Atlanta, Ga. (D. R. Kenshalo, Dept. of Psychology, Florida State Univ., Tallahassee)

April

3–6. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, centennial celebration, Cambridge. (Office of Public Relations, M.I.T., Cambridge 39)

3–15. Medical Conference, 11th, Nassau, Bahamas. (Bahamas Conferences, P.O. Box 1454, Nassau)

4–6. Electromagnetics and Fluid Dynamics of Gaseous Plasma, intern. symp., New York, N.Y. (J. Fox, Microwave Research Inst., Brooklyn 1, N.Y.)

4–7. Society of Automotive Engineers, natl. aeronautic meeting, New York, N.Y. (E. W. Conlon and G. W. Periman, 485 Lexington Ave., New York 17)

4–8. National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, 39th annual, Chicago, Ill. (F. A. Janacek, J. S. Morton High School, Cicero 50, Ill.)

5–8. Water Relations of Plants, British Ecological Soc., symp., London. (F. H. Whitehead, Botany Department, Imperial College, Prince Consort Road, London, S.W.7)

6–7. Council on Medical Television, annual, Bethesda, Md. (Institute for Advancement of Medical Communication, 33 E. 68 St., New York 21)

7–8. Eastern Psychological Association, Philadelphia, Pa. (C. H. Rush, P.O. Box 252, Glenbrook, Conn.)

7–9. American Assoc. for Cancer Research, 52nd annual, Atlantic City, N.J. (H. J. Creech, Secretary-Treasurer, Inst. for Cancer Research, Fox Chase, Philadelphia 11, Pa.)

7–9. Fleming's Lysozyme, 2nd intern. symp., Milan, Italy. (R. Ferrari, Organizing Committee, Via Modica 6, Milan)

8–9. Histochemical Soc., 12th annual, Atlantic City, N.J. (H. W. Deane, Albert