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REPORT OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE FOR THE STUDY OF HOSPITAL IN- TERNSHIPS AND RESIDENCE

At a recent meeting of the Greater New York Hospital Association, the forthcoming report of a three-year survey of internships and residencies in the hospitals of New York City was discussed by Dr. F. L. Babbott, chairman of the New York Committee for the Study of Hospital Internships and Residencies, and by Dr. J. A. Curran, executive secretary. The New York Committee was sponsored by the five medical colleges of New York City and the New York Academy of Medicine. In its work, the committee has had the cooperation of ninety-seven voluntary and municipal hospitals in the municipal area. The study has been financed through grants made by the Commonwealth Fund, and the report will be published by the fund.

Dr. Curran pointed out that New York City occupies a leading position in the country in the education of doctors. At the time of the survey, 103 medical colleges in all parts of the United States, in Canada and in several foreign countries furnished over 2,000 graduates for advanced training in the internships, residencies and other house-staff services in the 182 hospitals of all types in New York City. Seventy-seven of these hospitals have been approved by the American Medical Association and were offering house-staff training to 1,968 individuals.

The report stresses the length and the arduous nature of the modern medical course. In New York City, besides the usual four years in medical college, at least two additional years of internship are considered necessary before a doctor may safely assume independent responsibility for the care of the sick.

The close association between medical colleges and hospitals was shown by the fact that 1,353 out of the 1,968 house-staff members were in hospitals having

some degree of medical college affiliation. Hospitals were divided into three groups—"teaching," "affiliated" and "non-teaching"—according to the degree of their participation in the undergraduate programs of the several medical colleges in the city. Over ninety-five per cent. of the internships in the so-called non-teaching hospitals were rotating (attempting to cover all services in the hospital), while most of the straight internships (on one service only) and mixed internships (on two or three services only) were provided by the teaching and affiliated hospitals. It is, therefore, important to consider the educational standing of the complete rotating internship.

The committee attempted to evaluate each step of the medical-educational process. A comparison of the preparation of the graduates of American and foreign medical schools showed in most instances the superior quality of the education received in the American institutions, as applied to intern requirements in this country. The survey demonstrated the need for better organized education of the interns, for in approximately half of the hospitals systematic introduction to their duties and continued instruction and supervision could be much better organized.

In addition to the internships, it was shown that there were 577 residencies and fellowships in 53 of the 77 hospitals of the city approved by the American Medical Association. Through these opportunities, interns have obtained advanced training in special fields. In the majority of instances, it was concluded that the residencies have greatly enhanced the quality of care given the patients and have been of valuable assistance in the teaching of students and interns.

The committee has undertaken a program of annual revisitation of hospitals cooperating in plans for improved house-staff education. Material gathered is said to have been invaluable in the guidance of undergraduates seeking internship placement. These revisits have revealed increasing interest in better education of the interns, and in better provision for their housing, recreation and health care. A serious obstacle has been insufficient funds for these needs.

THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNI- VERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY

THE one hundred and fiftieth anniversary celebration of the Linnean Society of London was opened on May 25 in the rooms of the Royal Institution, when the Linnean Medal was presented to Sir D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, and the president, John Ramsbottom, keeper of botany in the British Museum (Natural History), delivered his presidential address.

According to an account of the meeting given in the *London Times*, among those present were many foreign

members and delegates from institutions and societies in Sweden, France, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Germany, the United States, Portugal, India and other countries. Congratulatory addresses were received from learned societies both abroad and at home, and there were expeditions to places of scientific interest. On the evening of May 26 a dinner was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, and on the following evening the president held a reception in the society's rooms in Burlington House.

In presenting the Linnean Medal to Sir D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, the president said:

The Linnean Society, while maintaining the traditions associated with the great Swedish naturalist whose name it bore, had always welcomed to its fellowship the disciples of new schools. It seemed to the council especially fitting that at this one hundred and fiftieth anniversary meeting the highest honor in its gift should be conferred on a naturalist who, more than any other of our time, had shown himself to be at home in both the old and the new learning. Their founders, Sir James Smith and Bishop Goodenough, would have approved the ripe scholarship of Sir D'Arcy Thompson's "Glossary of Greek Birds" and of his translation of Aristotle's "Historia Animalium," which were in the eighteenth-century tradition no less distinctly than his "Growth and Form," already a classic on the shelves of the younger biologists, was in that of the twentieth.

Sir D'Arcy Thompson expressed his thanks.

The title of the presidential address of Mr. Ramsbottom was "Linneaus and the Species Concept." A symposium on "The Concept of Species from the Time of Linneaus to the Present Day" was held on May 25, which was taken part in by Sir Edward Poulton, Professor E. W. MacBride, emeritus professor of zoology of the Imperial College of Science, South Kensington, Professor O. Winge, of Copenhagen, and Dr. Karl Jordan, of the Tring Museum. A second symposium entitled "Geographical Isolation as a Factor in Species Formation" was held on May 27. The speakers included: Dr. Julian Huxley, secretary of the Zoological Society of London; Professor P. A. Buxton, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Dr. E. Fischer-Piette, of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris; Professor B. Rensch, of Münster, and Professor Karl Skottsberg, of Göteborg.

At a formal meeting of fellows, John Ramsbottom was reelected *president*; I. Henry Burkill and M. A. C. Hinton, *secretaries*, and Francis Druce, *treasurer*.

THE OTTAWA MEETING

JUNE 27 TO JULY 2

THE preliminary announcement of the Ottawa meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was published in the May 20 issue of SCIENCE. Although the prospects for a fine meeting were promising in May, they are now materially better. As the programs of the sections and of the affiliated

societies have taken final form they have aroused continually increasing interest and enthusiasm.

All the sections of the association, except that on mathematics, will present programs at Ottawa. Since the subsection on pharmacy will have independent sessions for presenting papers in its field, there will be fifteen sectional meetings. In addition, eighteen affiliated societies will meet in Ottawa. Perhaps the best measure of the magnitude of the meeting is the number of scientific sessions, of which eighty-one are scheduled and before which several hundred papers will be presented. These sessions are exclusive of numerous field trips and excursions, which on the whole are as truly contributory to science as are formal presentations of the results of investigations. The dinners and luncheons serve an equally useful purpose.

In the preliminary announcement emphasis was placed on the symposia, of which fourteen are scheduled. A number of the symposia, but not all of them, are sponsored jointly by two or more sections or societies. For example, the Section on Medical Sciences and the Section on Chemistry hold a joint symposium on "Medical Biochemistry." An illustration of a joint symposium exclusively by affiliated societies is that of the American Phytopathological Society and the American Society of Plant Physiologists on "Microelements and Deficiency Diseases." An example of a symposium presented under the joint auspices of a section and affiliated societies is that on "The Genetics of Pathogenic Organisms," which is participated in by the Section on Medical Sciences, the Genetics Society of America, the Phytopathological Society and veterinary and bacteriological groups.

All the symposia to be presented at Ottawa are listed in the preliminary announcement except that on "Atmospheric Ozone," which has been organized by Dr. Brian O'Brien, of the Section on Astronomy. Other speakers in this symposium, which will be held on Thursday morning, June 30, are Dr. B. Haurwitz, Dr. E. H. Gowan and Dr. Chaim Pekeris.

In addition to the fourteen symposia, a number of sections and societies will hold joint scientific sessions, as well as joint luncheons and dinners. There are fourteen such joint scientific sessions, including a few somewhat formal ones that are classed as symposia. As has often been pointed out, in these integrations of different fields the association is making one of its greatest contributions to science.

The distribution of formal sessions for the presentation of scientific papers is as follows: Monday, June 27, 14 sessions; Tuesday, 24 sessions; Wednesday, 30 sessions; Thursday, 13 sessions; Friday and Saturday will be devoted to field trips and excursions.

F. R. MOULTON,
Permanent Secretary