

First International Congress of Physiology and Pathology of Animal Reproduction and of Artificial Insemination

Banner Bill Morgan

Department of Veterinary Science, University of Wisconsin

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS of Physiology and Pathology of Animal Reproduction, which was held in Milan, Italy, from June 23 to 30, was considered an immense success. Representation was world-wide, with a total attendance of over 600 and with delegates from 6 continents and 40 different countries. Much of the credit for the success of the Congress belongs to the Secretary-General and his committee.

The "Lazzaro Spallanzani" Italian Experimental Institute for Artificial Insemination, in cooperation with the University of Milan, promoted the Congress, which was also held under the auspices of the Italian High Commission of Public Health and Hygiene, Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Instruction, War Department, Institute of Foreign Cultural Relations, and National Breeders' Association.

At a pre-Congress symposium sponsored by UNESCO and FAO, held June 21-22 at the Zoological Institute of the University of Milan, speakers selected by direct invitation discussed the problems of "interacting substances of eggs and sperm and parthenogenesis."

The Congress dealt with a basic subject, mainly the problems of animal reproduction. A central piazza with rooms radiating from its central hub provided excellent and valuable opportunity for the scientists to make individual contacts with members between sessions and presentation of papers. The stage was properly set for the stimulation and promotion of exchange of research discussion on problems of mutual interest. Interpreters were provided, and all talks were presented in the three official languages (English, French, and Italian). This arrangement also allowed for free discussion.

No country was excluded from participation in the scientific sessions. Although there were no representatives from Japan and Russia, 11 delegates were present from Germany, 3 from Austria, 3 from Czechoslovakia, 2 from Bulgaria, 1 each from Spain, Poland, Hungary, and Yugoslavia. The largest contingent of registrants was from Italy (255 members), followed by France with 27 members, Great Britain with 26, Belgium with 16, the United States with 15, and Denmark and Switzerland with 12 each.

The Congress was formally opened at the Auditorium of the International Industrial Exhibition of Milan (Fiera Compionaria Internazionale). A series of lectures were presented by: J. Hammond (England), "Endocrine Balance in Relation to Fertility and Sterility"; R. W. Phillips (U.S.A.), "The Relation of Environment Factors to Reproduction in Livestock"; J. Anderson (Kenya), "Climate and Reproduction in Cattle"; G. Amantea (Italy), "Problems and Techniques of Artificial Insemination"; N. Lagerlof (Sweden), "Factors of Sterility"; M. G. Lesbouyries (France), "Avitaminosis A and Infertility"; E. Sorenson (Denmark), "Scientific and Technical Questions of Artificial Insemination"; and J. C. Guitierrez (Uruguay), "Artificial Insemination Problems."

The remainder of the program was devoted to sectional meetings for the presentation of papers. Although some of the papers were scheduled for 60 minutes, the majority were not more than 15 minutes each. The 5 sections on different subjects were scheduled in such a way as to prevent conflicts. The sections were as follows: Section I (61 papers), Biological Problems of Animal Reproduction; Section II (50 papers), Breeding Problems of Animal Reproduction; Section III (54 papers), Pathological Problems of Animal Reproduction; Section IV (45 papers), Methodological and Practical Questions of Artificial Insemination of Animals; and Section V (14 papers), Legislative and Organizational Problems of Artificial Insemination. Dairy cattle research was, of course, given the most emphasis, closely followed by studies on reproduction of sheep and horses.

In addition to the presentation of papers an International Livestock Show and Fair as well as two afternoons of demonstrations were included in the program. Many exhibits were open at all times.

The Italians were excellent hosts to the visiting scientists. Throughout the Congress we were entertained by the authorities of the City of Milan, the Italian Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Italian Veterinarians, the Università degli Studi di Milano and Società Italiana per il Progresso della Zootechnica. Luncheons, excursions, and artistic performances were provided.

One of the main attractions of the Congress, pro-

vided by the local committee, was the series of excursions. Since the institute of Spallanzani was one of the first to pioneer in the field of artificial insemination, visits to many of the artificial insemination centers were well worth while.

In the Province of Como visits were made to the Chemical-Pharmaceutical Abattoir in Casatenueva, to Lake Como, and to the Villa Monastero and the Italian Institute for Hydrobiology. A rare opportunity was made possible to visit the birthplace of Lazzaro Spallanzani at Scandiano, as well as the Artificial Breeding Center of the Istituto Beggiani, cooperative milk plants, and the vineyards of Cavalli, all in the Province of Reggio Emilia. Other visits included the famous cathedral and abbey of Certosa di Pavia and the wine cellars of Santa Maria la Versa in the Province of Pavia; the Lake of Garda and the Experimental Zoophylactic Institute of Lombardy in the Province of Brescia; and agricultural and breeding farms of the Province of Cremona.

The local committee, with Prof. Telesforo Bonadonna as Secretary-General, did a wonderful job of organizing the Congress. All of the meetings were held in the International Industrial Exhibition of

Milan, which contains an excellent auditorium and lecture rooms. In the same building information, banking, postoffice, writing, and telephone facilities were provided, and light refreshments were available.

The entire program ran with clock-like precision. One could go with ease from one session to another. Good projection equipment was provided for lantern slides, opaques, and movies. Printed copies of the program with abstracts of all the papers were available. An itinerary of all the excursions was printed. For the ladies accompanying members of the Congress an excellent program was arranged.

At the closing session a permanent committee of 9 persons, each from a different country, was elected to manage the affairs of the Congress. T. Bonadonna was elected secretary of the permanent committee, and the writer was chosen as a member of the permanent committee to represent the United States. This committee will meet with the International Veterinary Congress in London in August 1949 to plan the next Congress and the establishment of an international Institute of Fertility. The Second Congress will be held in 1951. It is hoped that more scientists from the United States will attend the future Congresses.

NEWS and Notes

William L. Slate, director emeritus of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, recently accepted the post of consultant at the Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras. At the invitation of Arturo Roque, director of the Puerto Rico Station, Mr. Slate will spend the next year acting in an advisory capacity to the Station staff.

Frederick R. Duke, formerly associate professor of chemistry at Michigan State College, is now associate professor of chemistry and associate chemist in the Institute of Atomic Research, Iowa State College.

Gordon F. Ferris, professor of biology at Stanford University and an authority on scale insects, recently flew to China, where he will spend a year in research. Traveling under a research scholarship granted from Fulbright Bill funds, Dr. Ferris will

make his headquarters at Lingnan University, located on an island near Canton. He hopes to spend much time in field research and, at the end of his sabbatical year in the Orient, will return to Stanford.

Arthur K. Saz, formerly an instructor at the New York Medical College, was recently appointed professor of bacteriology at Iowa State College.

Leland J. Haworth has been named director of the Brookhaven National Laboratory. Dr. Haworth, who had served as acting director of the Laboratory since the resignation of Philip H. Morse, originally joined the executive staff as assistant director in charge of special projects. In this capacity Dr. Haworth had supervised erection of the nuclear reactor pile and the cosmotron, the two major research tools at Brookhaven.

C. M. Yonge, Regius professor of zoology at the University of Glasgow, has been appointed visiting professor of zoology at the University of California for the first half of the year 1949. Prof. Yonge will be engaged in teaching and research in invertebrate zoology on the Berkeley campus.

Randall McGavock Robertson has been appointed acting director of the Physical Sciences Division, Office of Naval Research. Dr. Robertson, a specialist in electronics and solid state physics, is filling a vacancy created when Samuel R. Piore, the director, was granted a leave of absence to conduct research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Leverett A. Adams, who for 9 years was curator of the Museum of Natural History at the University of Illinois, recently retired. Two years ago Dr. Adams retired as professor of zoology at Illinois. **Donald F. Hoffmeister** has replaced him as curator of the Museum.

Frederick C. Leonard, professor of astronomy at the University of California, Los Angeles, was in residence from August 7 to September 9 at the Institute of Meteoritics, University of New Mexico, of which he is a research associate. From August 17 to 26 he was a member of the Institute's expedition that was mainly responsible for recovery of the one-ton Furnas County, Nebraska, achondrite. This specimen, which fell on February 18 of this year, is the largest aerolite