News and Notes

Italian Congress on Aerosol Therapy

A TWO-DAY meeting of the Italian Congress on Aerosol Therapy was held in Turin (July 1–2) as a part of an elaborate series of medical meetings and exhibitions sponsored by the Italian Medical Association and the Minerva Medical Society (an association of medical authors). There were more than 60 specialized professional group meetings with 1,383 participants, who read 1,612 papers. About 4,000 attended, representing 30 countries. Over 100 were registered for the meetings on aerosol therapy. These meetings were dedicated to Luigi Rolando (1773–1831), former son of Turin and for many years professor of anatomy at the university there. Special honors were given to Blalock (USA), Zonde (Israel), and Leriche (France).

The Congress on Aerosol Therapy had a varied program. L. Dautrebande (Belgium) discussed the agglutination of solid aerosols (dusts) of siliceous material by exposure to another aerosol of sodium chloride, which caused agglutination. This has practical application in the mining industry, where it can be employed to prevent silicosis. R. Tiffeneau (France) gave an illustrated talk on the action of eupnoeic aerosols on the bronchi and alveoli, as determined by spirometric studies. Two factors are involved in the improvement of pulmonary ventilation by the use of eupnoeic agents (such as adrenaline, theophylline, etc.)—namely, broncho-dilating action and alveolar moving power, and not by the former alone, as is frequently taught. S. J. Prigal gave a historical review of the development of aerosol therapy in the U. S., as well as a résumé of his studies with steam-generated aerosols, particularly with reference to the use of specific antibiotics for the treatment of sino-respiratory infections.

G. Dellepiane (Italy) described a novel application of aerosols in the field of obstetrics and gynecology, in which antibiotics (penicillin, chloromycetin) and hormones (estrogens, gonadotropins, and progesterone) were employed, either by inhalation and absorption through the pulmonary field or applied through the genital route as an aerosol. Evidence of absorption in animals and humans was presented for both the antibiotics and the hormones, and the conclusion was reached that these aerosols may find an adjunct position to those modalities already employed in this field. Micheli (Italy) discussed problems in need of further investigation, such as surface tension and viscosity in the formation of aerosols, electrical charges of the dispersed particles, and absorption and distribution of aerosolized substances. Aerosol therapy in the practice of otolaryngology was discussed by P. L. Remaggi (Italy) and in the practice of pediatrics by C. Torricelli (Italy). The latter emphasized the usefulness of administering therapeutic agents for systemic action in the form of aerosols via the pulmonary route (diapulmonary therapy). This method of treatment has been advocated by G. Guassardo and his associates at the University of Turin. In the pediatric service headed by Professor Guassardo there is an installation of aerosol chambers in which several children are simultaneously treated by a constant aerosol automatically controlled by an electronic device. In this fashion meningitis is treated with specific antibiotics without resorting to injections. The chambers and mechanisms controlling the concentration of the aerosols were exhibited and were one of the highlights of the convention. How feasible in practice this method of therapy will be remains to be seen.

Another novel application was described by P. Sangiorgi (Italy), who uses aerosols of antigens in allergic patients for specific desensitization. He has also found aerosols of mineral waters useful in the treatment of chronic bronchitis and bronchiectasis.

L. Bonelli (Italy) presented fundamental studies on the physical-chemical-electrical aspects of aerosols, methods of production, determination of size, and evaluation of dosage. For the last of these studies he has modified a spirometer so that the effect of aerosols of various types may be recorded as they modify pulmonary functions.

At the end of the convention, Professor Dautrebande proposed the establishment of an International Society of Aerosology with headquarters in Turin. Drs. Bohn (Germany), Dautrebande, Prigal, Tiffenau, and Wolfer-Bianchi (Italy) were nominated as representatives of this proposed society in their countries.

The meetings, on the whole, reflected a great deal of enthusiasm for aerosol therapy in Europe and ingenuity in its application. Considering the progress and extent of application of this form of therapy in Italy and France, as observed by the author, there is much to be done in this country.

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Scientists in the News

Edwin B. Astwood, of Tufts College Medical School, has received the 1951 Borden Award for his research on the production of ACTH. The award of $1,000 cash and a gold medal, established by the Borden Foundation, was given at the annual dinner of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

The Standard Oil Company (New Jersey) has announced reorganization of six affiliates operating in the Caribbean area into Esso Standard Oil, S. A., and the appointment of **Fred H. Billups** as president of the new company. **Henry H. Blackeby,** assistant controller of Standard of New Jersey, was named chairman. Headquarters of the new company will be in Havana, Cuba.

John E. Boysen, USAF (MC), has been elected to fellowship in the American Academy of Occupational Medicine. Colonel Boysen is deputy air surgeon for the Air Materiel Command located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton.

Philip H. Coombs has been named director of research of the Fund for the Advancement of Education and will join the organization next March after he has completed his duties as executive director of the President's Materials Policy Commission.

Martin Gusinde has been appointed research professor of anthropology at Catholic University. Dr. Gusinde has recently returned from South Africa, where he investigated the Bushmen-Hottentot.

George M. Hocking, who resigned his position at the University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy (Albuquerque) in March to accept a temporary assignment as Technical Expert on Medicinal Plants, FAO, after three months of travel in West Pakistan and three of study in various institutions in England, France, Switzerland, and Italy, is now serving as professor of pharmacognosy at the School of Pharmacy of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute. He was recently appointed a member of the Comissão de Estudos de Plantas Brasileiras, Medicinais e Tóxicas, Universidade de São Paulo.

Charles D. Hurd has been appointed to the first Clare Hamilton Hall research professorship in organic chemistry, established this fall at Northwestern University by the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company. This professorship will be supported by a yearly grant from the company and is named in memory of the director of the company's Milwaukee paint division from 1921 until his death in 1930. Previous to this appointment, Dr. Hurd held the chair of Morrison professor of chemistry at Northwestern.

Charles P. Huttrer, formerly research associate, Chemical-Biological Coordination Center, National Research Council, has been appointed executive secretary, Division of Research Grants, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md.

Raymond W. Jacoby of the Ciba Company, Inc., has been awarded the Olney Medal for outstanding achievement in textile chemistry. The medal, given annually by the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists was established by the Howes Publishing Company in honor of the late Louis A. Olney, of Lowell Textile Institute.

Thomas H. Johnson, chairman of the Physics Department of Brookhaven National Laboratory, has been appointed director of the Research Division of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission. The position has been vacant since June 18, when **Kenneth S. Pitzer** resigned to become dean of the College of Chemistry, University of California (SCIENCE, **113,** 734 [1951]). Dr. Johnson served as chief physicist at the Aberdeen Proving Ground during World War II and in 1946 and 1947 was associate director at Aberdeen until joining the Brookhaven staff.

F. E. Kelsey has been appointed as director of radiochemistry at Nuclear Instrument & Chemical Corp., Chicago. Dr. Kelsey joined the firm after 11 years at the University of Chicago, where he was associate professor of pharmacology.

James H. Pannell, formerly chief of the physics section at the MIT Mineral Engineering Laboratories, is now with the American Cyanamid Company at Idaho Falls, Idaho.

A fellowship in the Photographic Society of America has been awarded to **Konstantin Pestrecov,** head of the Photographic Department of Bausch & Lomb Optical Company's Scientific Bureau, in recognition of his "numerous contributions to the advancement of photography in the scientific, technical, and educational fields." A member of Bausch & Lomb's Scientific Bureau since 1940, Dr. Pestrecov is a designer of aerial camera and motion-picture lenses.

Columbia University has appointed **Robert R. Serber,** theoretical physicist, as a professor of physics. A founder of the Los Alamos experimental laboratory and a consultant to the Brookhaven National Laboratory, Dr. Serber formerly was on the faculty of the University of California.

Alex J. Steigman, professor of child health at the University of Louisville School of Medicine, is the recipient of a grant-in-aid from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Inc., for studies on experimental poliomyelitis.

Directors of the J. T. Baker Chemical Company, Phillipsburg, N. J., have elected **Joseph R. Stevens** vice president. Dr. Stevens joined the company in 1944 as director of organic research.

Herluf H. Strandskov, Department of Zoology, University of Chicago, has been elected editor of *The American Journal of Human Genetics,* starting Jan. 1, 1952.

Chester M. Suter, divisional vice president of the Sterling-Winthrop Research Institute, has been elected chairman of the American Chemical Society's Division of Medicinal Chemistry, succeeding **Richard O. Roblin, Jr.,** of the American Cyanamid Company. **J. M. Sprague,** of Sharpe & Dohme, Inc., was chosen chairman-elect, and **M. G. Van Campen,** of the Wm. S. Merrell Co., was named secretary-treasurer.

The American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers has announced that **Ernest Szekely,** president of the Bayley Blower Company, has been nominated for president of the society in 1952. Nominees for other offices are **R. F. Taylor,** consulting engineer, Houston, and **L. N. Hunter,** National Radiator Company, Johnstown, Pa., vice presidents; and **J. Donald Kroeker,** consulting engineer, Portland, Ore., treasurer. Mr. Szekely is first vice president of the society.

Orders transferring **John M. Talbot,** who served as medical officer to Operation Crossroads, to the Air Research and Development Command in Baltimore have been issued at the Air Force School of Aviation Medicine. Colonel Talbot has been stationed at the aeromedical school since October 1946, where his last assignment was as head of the Department of Radiobiology. At Air Research and Development Command headquarters he will serve in the Aviation Medicine Division.

Osgood V. Tracy has been appointed deputy director of the chemical division of the National Production Authority. Mr. Tracy is on leave as general manager of the chemical products department of Esso Standard Oil Company.

Orville Frank Tuttle, Geophysical Laboratory, Carnegie Institution of Washington, is the first recipient of the Mineralogical Society Award. The Mineralogical Society Award will be given annually to a man under thirty-five years of age for "outstanding contributions to the mineralogical sciences."

Members of the International Council of Scientific Unions recently visited the National Bureau of Standards and were conducted on a tour of the laboratories. The attending members were: **A. von Muralt,** University of Bern, president of the council; **H. Solberg,** Oslo University, vice president of the council; **P. Fleury,** director, Institut d'Optique, Paris, representing the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics; **H. A. Kramers,** University of Leiden; **G. Laclavère,** National Geographic Institute of France, Paris; **J. N. Mukherjee,** Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee, India; **G. Sarton,** president of the International Union on History of Science, Harvard.

Martin G. Vorhaus has been appointed general medical director of the Doehler-Jarvis Corporation. Dr. Vorhaus has been practicing in New York since 1922 and holds the post of attending physician of the medical service at the Hospital for Joint Diseases in that city.

Paul Weiss, of the University of Chicago, has been elected a foreign member of the Swedish Royal Academy of Science in Group 7 (zoology). He was chosen for his outstanding work in the field of experimental embryology.

The National Bureau of Standards has appointed **David White,** acting assistant director of the Cryogenics Laboratory at Ohio State University, to its staff of consultants. He will serve as a part-time consultant in the thermodynamics section of the bureau's division of heat and power.

Two additions have been made to the Microbiology Department staff of the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston—**Robert P. Williams** and **Willson J. Fahlberg.** Dr. Williams has been named assistant professor of microbiology and Dr. Fahlberg instructor of microbiology. Dr. Fahlberg worked for more than six years as an analytical chemist in petroleum research.

The Zoology Department of the U. S. National Museum was host to **James Zetek,** entomologist in charge of the Canal Zone Laboratory at Balboa for the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine and resident manager for the Smithsonian Institution of the Barro Colorado Island Biological Area, at a meeting attended by 45 zoologists working at or visiting the museum.

Education

Bard College has received as a gift the 825-acre Hudson River Estate of Christian A. Zabriskie. The estate, which adjoins the college property, increases the Bard campus area nearly twentyfold.

California Institute of Technology has purchased the personal library of the late Chester Stock, geologist, and has acquired by gift the mineral collection of William C. Oke, twice president of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California. Mr. Oke expects to continue to add species and varieties to his collection.

Duke University Medical School has begun a diagnostic and treatment center for speech and hearing problems in North Carolina. Leslie B. Hohman, professor of neuropsychiatry, Murray Halfond, former speech pathology clinician at Northwestern University, and Kenneth L. Pickrell, professor of plastic surgery, are cooperating in the program.

Hahneman Medical College has received a gift of $18,000 from the National Council of British Sholem Women for the establishment of a clinical laboratory for cardiovascular and pulmonary research; $25,000 from the U. S. Public Health Service for the development of a heart-lung apparatus; and $10,000 from an anonymous donor for the clinical study of bone metabolism in health and disease.

The **University of Maryland** has received the following grants for work in the Department of Pharmacology: from the National Institutes of Health, $6,000 for investigation of cardiovascular disease; from Eli Lilly & Company, $4,500 for the study of vasodilating drugs; from Ohio Chemical & Surgical Equipment Company, $3,500 for studies in anesthesia; and $2,500 from Emerson Drug Company for investigation of the mechanism of analgesia.

New York University's Advanced Technology Center at University Heights will be completed by a new Applied Science Building at an estimated cost of 3 to 4 million dollars. The new building will house research projects in all fields of engineering and also provide quarters for the Physics Department. The university's Engineering Research Division has announced new research contracts in electronics, rocket fuels, nuclear energy, metallurgy, biomechanics, and air and water pollution problems that bring the annual research expenditures to $1,040,000, 17 per cent more than last

year. Harold K. Work is director of the Research Division.

Three faculty members in the **North Carolina State's** School of Agriculture have been named William Neal Reynolds distinguished professors of agriculture. The men honored were George H. Wise, head of the animal nutrition section in the Department of Animal Industry; James H. Jensen, plant pathologist in the Division of Biological Sciences; and Stanley G. Stephens, head of basic genetics in the same division. The endowment, established by the late William Neal Reynolds in 1950, is expected to improve rural living standards in North Carolina and support training and research in the various agricultural fields.

Grants and Fellowships

The **East European Fund, Inc.,** of the Ford Foundation, formerly the Free Russia Fund, has recently made approximately $200,000 available to independent organizations, principally those working in the field of initial reception and placement of arriving displaced persons. Most of the remaining funds were granted for the continuation of work begun last spring.

Through a grant from the **Lalor Foundation,** the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Mass., is offering a limited number of postdoctoral fellowships in the fields of biochemistry, biophysics, and physiological chemistry, designed primarily for young scientists desiring to work the entire summer on investigations for which the opportunities provided by the laboratory are particularly appropriate. The stipend is intended to cover laboratory fees, travel, and living expenses at Woods Hole. Applications should be received by *Dec. 31.* Blanks and further information may be secured from the Director of the Biological Laboratory.

Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation has given honors and cash awards to 63 undergraduate engineers representing 34 different engineering schools. Purdue, Lafayette College, and Oregon State College also received funds to establish scholarships in mechanical and civil engineering in honor of the engineers receiving the main awards. Information about the next annual competition, which will extend from June 1 to May 31, may be obtained from the foundation, Cleveland 17, Ohio.

The **National Paraplegia Foundation** has awarded a fellowship to Pei-chin Tang at the University of Washington for studies of the nerves controlling bladder action, and to Dominick P. Purpura at Harvard for work on the crossed phrenic phenomenon, under the supervision of Eugene Landis and Paul Chatfield.

Following closely upon the publication of the **Rockefeller Foundation's** Annual Report for 1950, which noted that $11,247,964 had been disbursed in grants last year, came an announcement of grants for the third quarter of 1951 totaling $844,000. Largest appropriation was $275,000 for postdoctoral fellowships in the natural and medical sciences, to be administered over a three-year period by the National Research Council. McGill University received $214,800 for its newly established Institute of Islamic Studies. Other beneficiaries were the University of Amsterdam, University of Copenhagen, WHO, and the Council on Foreign Relations (New York).

Sigma Xi and the **Scientific Research Society of America** (Resa) have announced 29 research grants-in-aid for 1951, ranging in amount from $100 to $400, and totaling $7,675. Approximately two thirds of the projects supported are in the varied fields of biology, and the recipients are scattered through the U. S. from Rice Institute to Carleton College, and from Oregon State College to Harvard. Two grants were made to foreign scientists—Hans Kienle, of Heidelberg Observatory, and Richard P. Dorf, of the University of Glasgow.

The **Squibb Institute for Medical Research** has given $63,871 in grants and fellowships in the last six months of its fiscal year 1950–51, and $254,925 for the first part of fiscal year 1951–52. A grant of $40,000 went to R. Plato Schwartz, of the University of Rochester; $22,000 was granted to Byron B. Clark, of Tufts College Medical School; and $21,600 was given in partial support of Emory University's Department of Pharmacology. Research grants were given to scientists in the University of Lund and the University of Zurich, and a fellowship was awarded to José Carlos Peréz Avendaño, of Guatemala, for training in the U. S.

Miscellaneous

Chemicals wanted by the Registry of Rare Chemicals, 35 W. 33rd St., Chicago 16, Ill., include: vanadium disulfide; vanadium oxytrifluoride; ammonium pyrophosphate; rubidium chromic sulfate; sodium-*n*-hexadecyl sulfate; *p*-vinyldiphenyl; *m*-trichloromethylfluorobenzene; 1,2,3-triaminopropane; 1,1-dichloropropanone-2; 3-methylquinoline; 4-hydroxybutyrophenone; 3-hydroxy-5-methylbenzoic acid; *o*-fluorobenzoic acid; *m*-ethylbenzaldehyde; eriodictin; ellagic acid; myoglobin; sedoheptulose; and propyl syringate.

The University of Cincinnati will hold a **Homicide Seminar** Dec. 3–7 for a limited number of police officers, in which all phases of scientific investigation of crime will be discussed in four daily eight-hour sessions, divided into 48 illustrated lectures. Frank R. Dutra, associate professor of forensic pathology in Kettering Laboratory and pathologist and deputy in the coroner's office, will be in charge.

A **Symposium on Rheumatic Fever** will be held in Minneapolis Nov. 29–Dec. 1 under the joint sponsorship of the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Heart Association. T. D. Jones, G. Murphy, A. Dorfman, M. J. Shapiro, Ann G. Kuttner, A. H. Coons, C. H. Rammelkamp, F. F. Schwentker, and C. A. Stetson will be among the speakers. Lewis Thomas, Minnesota American Legion heart research professor, is in charge of the program.