

Meetings

Esperantists

The 45th annual international congress of Esperantists was held in Brussels, Belgium, from 30 July to 6 August, 1960, under the "alta protektado" of His Majesty Baudouin, King of the Belgians. In attendance were 1930 persons from many parts of the world, representing 42 nations. At the opening session a letter of greeting from King Baudouin was read; an address was given by M. Van Acker, former Prime Minister of Belgium; and short speeches were made by official representatives of several countries and by representatives of certain agencies of some others, including the U.S., whose Voice of America uses Esperanto as well as various national languages.

A number of organizations which use Esperanto or are promoting its use for their special purposes held meetings in connection with the general congress. Among them was the Internacia Scienca Asocio Esperantista, which has been in existence more than half a century and publishes an organ of its own, as well as contributing directly, through articles by individual members, to scientific and technical journals which use mainly the national languages. All the sessions of these diverse organizations, as well as the sessions and social functions of the general congress, were carried on smoothly and expeditiously in Esperanto, without translation.

Whereas the 1959 congress (held in Warsaw) emphasized the "Zamenhof year," in commemoration of the centenary of the Polish-born author of Esperanto, whose name appears on UNESCO's list of persons whose birthdays the member nations are requested to honor, the 1960 congress urged that special effort be made during the coming year to increase the teaching of Esperanto as a school subject. It was noted, among other things, that nearly 4000 pupils are taught Esperanto in 127 schools of various grades in Yugoslavia, no doubt owing in part to the efforts of Esperantists during their "summer pedagogical week."

The congress in Brussels was preceded by the usual institute, the so-called Somera (summer) University, during which experts on various subjects lecture in Esperanto. Maximum attendance at the lectures was reported as about 700. Among the subjects treated were the following: Problems of international law relating to space travel; juristic problems relating to atomic energy; the spawning of eels and the relation of European and American eels; Belgian literature from the French point of view; English education as viewed by other countries; toponomy

(the study of place names); and historical data on commercial relations between the Canary Islands and Flanders.

An invitation for the 46th congress to convene in Harrogate, England, in 1961 was presented and accepted. As for the 1965 congress, for which an invitation from Japan had been announced at the Warsaw congress, it was stated that the invitation would probably be formally repeated later, with full details, after the forthcoming meeting of the national congress of Japanese Esperantists.

IVY KELLERMAN REED
315 Westbourne Street,
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Forthcoming Events

January

8-12. Thermoelectric Energy Conversion, symp., Dallas, Tex. (P. H. Klein, General Electric Co., Electronics Lab., Bldg. 3, Room 221, Syracuse, N.Y.)

8-13. American Acad. of Orthopedic Surgeons, Miami Beach, Fla. (J. K. Hart, 116 South Michigan Ave., Chicago 3, Ill.)

8-14. Bahamas Conf. on Hypertension, Nassau. (I. M. Wechsler, P.O. Box 1454, Nassau)

8-14. International Conf. of Social Work, 10th, Rome. (Miss R. M. William, ICSW, 345 E. 46 St., Room 1012, New York 17)

8-15. Latin American Convention of

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