

Editorial Department

The Ninth International Dental Congress

The Ninth International Dental Congress was held under the auspices of the Federation Dentaire Internationale in Vienna, Austria, August 2 to 8 inclusive, 1936. It was housed in three large buildings: the Musikvereinsgebaude, the Handelsakademie and the Kunstlerhaus. The first contained the various committee and arrangement offices, exchange bureaus and post office, and was the official headquarters. The three main lecture halls for the reading of papers and reports were also in this building. Adjoining this structure was the Kunstlerhaus, connected by means of a specially constructed arcade, and this building contained the commercial exhibits. Between these two buildings was a garden with tables shaded with gaily colored lawn umbrellas where refreshments could be obtained in the open air a la Vienna. The third building, the Handelsakademie, was across the street and housed the scientific exhibits and the clinic rooms.

The meeting was officially opened on Sunday morning, August 2, with an address by M. Georges Villain, president of the Federation Dentaire Internationale. This was followed by the usual greeting and the address of the president of the Congress, Dr. Hans Pichler. The program, however, did not start until Monday morning. The plan of organization was as follows: three sections met simultaneously each morning in the three different lecture halls of the Musikvereinsgebaude. These were equipped with ear phone service and each paper was read in English, German and French. One had but to put on the ear phones and turn the dial to the indicated position to hear an interpreter read the paper in the language he understood. The essayist had been carefully instructed as to his preparation; no extemporaneous remarks were allowed except in closing discussions and even the descriptive matter pertaining to lantern slides and illustrative material had to be given in the form in which it was submitted so that accurate translation might be possible. Likewise, clinic demonstrators were furnished interpreters for whatever language they could not speak or understand.

All clinics and scientific demonstrations were given in the afternoon and these only on the subjects covered in the three sections in the morning sessions. Thus, fifteen sections were held over the five days and divided as follows: Monday: Section I, Anatomy, Histology, Pathology, Bacteriology and Pharmacology; Section II, Full Denture Prosthesis; Section III, History of Dentistry, Professional Press. Tuesday: Section IV, Operative Dentistry;

Section V, Crowns, Fixed Bridge Work, Ceramics; Section VI, Education. Wednesday: Section VII, Anaesthesia, Narcosis, Radiology; Section X, Treatment of Root-Canals, Focal Infection; Section IX, Public Dental Services. Thursday: Section VIII, Paradental Diseases; Section XI, Partial Removable Denture; Section XII, Dental Materials. Friday: Section XIII, Oral Surgery; Section XIV, Orthodontics; Section XV, Physics, Chemistry. In all, seventy-four papers were read and from seventy to seventy-five different clinics were given each afternoon.

The readers of this journal will be particularly interested in the orthodontic program. Five papers were listed as follows: A. G. Brodie, Chicago, "The Last Five Years in Orthodontia in the United States"; G. Korkhaus, Bonn, "The Diagnostic Problem of Anomalies of Occlusion"; E. Muzj, Rome, "The Relationship of Morphology to Therapeutics"; Ch. F. L. Nord, The Hague, "The Necessity of Differentiating between the Treatment of Neglected and Early Cases." J. Quintero, Lyon, was to have read a paper but did not appear. The official debaters were S. Friel, Dublin; A. M. Schwarz, Vienna; P. W. Simon, Berlin; the latter, however, did not attend. Forty clinics on orthodontia and its correlated fields were given in the afternoon, but space will not permit detailed comment. Suffice it to say the following were the most prominent discussions: various diagnostic devices ranging from model formers to X-ray techniques, surgical procedures for correction of jaw anomalies, stainless steel, orthodontic management of jaw fractures, treated cases and histologic material relating to tissue changes.

The entire proceedings of the Congress will be published. The first volume, which contained all of the papers read, was ready for distribution at the opening of the meeting. This volume consisted of two halves of over fifteen hundred pages. The second volume, which contains all of the discussions, clinics, and business proceedings, is on the press and will be forwarded to those who have already received the first volume.

The entertainment program was extremely full. On Sunday evening a formal dinner was tendered the official delegates and reporters by Dr. Pichler, president of the Congress. On Monday evening there was held an old Vienna evening in the Konzerthaus, where much of the music and gaiety of the Vienna of former days was portrayed. On Tuesday evening at five-thirty a reception was given the members of the Congress by the officials of the Austrian government. This took place in the Schonbrunn Palace. Most of the American delegates arrived late for this function because of the fact that the American minister, the Hon. George S. Messersmith, had tendered them a tea and reception at his home. This is thought to be the first time this honor has ever been accorded a dental delegation. Following the reception at

Schonbrunn the party was taken by busses to Kahlenberg for a view of the city of Vienna at night, then to the famous suburb of Grinsing where supper was served in an old open air wine garden. On Wednesday at five o'clock the mayor of Vienna entertained the members of the Congress at tea in the great council hall of the Rathaus. This building goes back to very early times, yet is in full use and in a wonderful state of preservation to this day. In the evening following this there was a gigantic party in the Burg Gardens. On Friday evening the great banquet for all members was held in the ceremonial hall of the Imperial Palace.

In addition to these social events arrangements were made for sight seeing tours through the city and surrounding country, shopping trips, visits to points of poetic interest for the ladies, as well as planned visits to the dental school clinics, the radium institute of the Memorial Hospital, and various other scientific centers.

Pervading the entire meeting was a spirit of international good will and helpfulness. The difficulties presented by the differences in language seemed, if anything, to increase the desire to understand and appreciate, and the wholehearted cooperative efforts of all those responsible for the managing of the meeting made those in attendance feel that they were among friends. One can conceive of no finer place for such a meeting than Vienna. With its delightful climate, its sunny smiling people and its beauty mellowed by age, it formed a background that will not soon be forgotten.

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