

# International Surgical Congress Begins at Faculté de Médecine

**Dr. William Keen, of Philadelphia,  
as President, Gives Warmly  
Applauded Address.**

The International Congress of Surgery, presided over by Dr. William W. Keen, of Philadelphia, the Nestor of modern surgery, convened yesterday afternoon in the grand amphitheatre of the Paris Faculté de Médecine, rue de l'Ecole de Médecine. In the absence of M. Millerand, the French Premier, honorary president of the Congress, who was engaged in duties connected with the Spa Conference, M. Honnorat, Minister of Public Instruction, welcomed the delegates from many countries to Paris. M. Jüsserand, French Ambassador in Washington, was present.

M. Honnorat alluded to the break in the International Congresses caused by the war, for the last was held in New York in 1914. He said: "I am happy to find the old traditions once more taken up by this assembly, where the world's most illustrious surgeons are discussing problems of humanity in peace."

Representatives were present from France, the United States, Great Britain, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Canada, Peru, Brazil and Chile.

The French delegates comprise Dr. Henri Hartmann, professor of the Faculty of Medicine; General Sieur, Dr. Alexis Carrel of the Rockefeller Institute; Dr. Quenu, Dr. Tuffier, Dr. Duval and Dr. Cuneo.

The United States is represented by Dr. Keen, Dr. Charles H. Mayo, of Rochester, Minn.; Dr. J. B. Clarke, Dr. A. V. Moschowitz, Dr. E. H. Pool and Dr. C. L. Gibson, of New York; Dr. C. A. Porter and Dr. Robert Lovett, of Boston; Dr. Porter Miles, of Fort Wayne, Ind.; Dr. Charles H. Frazier and Dr. A. Wood, of Philadelphia; Dr. R. Abbey, chief surgeon of St. Luke's Hospital, New York; Dr. Charles Goodman, professor of surgery at Bellevue Hospital, New York; General J. M. T. Finney, U.S.A., chief of the Medical Department of the American Army in France during the war; Professor Howard Liffenthal, of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York; Lieutenant S. B. Buck, U.S.N. and Dr. E. A. Pradom, of St. Louis.

Dr. Gibson, professor of surgery at Cornell University, is chairman of the American delegation.

## Dr. Keen Applauded.

Dr. Keen, presiding, read a scholarly paper, in excellent French, entitled "Certain Ideas which as Doctors we ought to defend." Under the headings of the Education of a Doctor, Research, Professional Conscience, Venereal Disease, Disinterestedness, Suppression of Alcohol and Professional Courage, he upheld the traditions of medicine, presenting a conception of the position, eminent ideals and aims of the medical profession, as applied to modern civilisation and present-day problems. He showed how medicine has been synonymous with progress, how the battle against disease is the battle for mankind, and concluded with the expression of a faith in Divine guidance as the hope of the future. The venerable doctor, close on eighty, held the attention of his hearers and was greeted with a most cordial tribute of applause as he concluded.

After a short speech by Dr. Willem, of Liège, president of the Belgian delegation, the meeting was adjourned preparatory to the first scientific session which was held shortly afterwards.

During the adjournment occasion was taken to inspect the surgical appliances of the Val-de-Grâce Military Hospital which are on exhibition in the lobby of the Faculté de Médecine.

On the resumption of the meeting papers were read on different subjects from M. Depage and M. P. Govaerts, of Brussels; Dr. Everts A. Graham, of St. Louis; M. Peugniez, of Cannes; Dr. Gibson, of New York; Senor Pujol-y-Brull, of Barcelona; M. de Quervain, of Berne, and M. Reynès, of Marseilles.

The session this afternoon which will begin at two o'clock in the amphitheatre of the Faculté de Médecine, will be devoted to the discussion of surgery of the heart and the blood vessels. Dr. Goodman, of New York; Dr. Carrel and eighteen others will read short papers.

Wednesday's meeting will be given up to

the subject of fractures, and Thursday's to that of the use of radium and X-rays in treating tumors. On Friday the subject will be the treatment of tetanus.

## Received at Hotel de Ville.

The delegates to the congress were received at the Hôtel de Ville at five o'clock by the President of the Paris Municipal Council and by M. Autrand, Prefect of the Seine Department, the members of the Inter-Allied Congress of Physiology, which has been in session at the Sorbonne for two days, were also guests of the Municipality.

The President of the Municipal Council and M. Autrand paid homage to the surgical profession and recalled the great accomplishments of surgery during the war. In saluting the French, Allied and neutral savants who are taking part in the work of both congresses.

M. Autrand paid special attention to the "eminent masters of Brussels and of Liège, who, braving the threats of the enemy installed on the national soil, were able to maintain unto the end the proud independence of Belgian thought. They put into practice the sublime saying: 'Science without conscience is the ruin of the soul.'"

The prefect referred particularly to the presence of the delegates from the University of Strasbourg "with its glorious past, all radiant still with the memory of our immortal Pasteur."

## DR. MAYO LAUDS BENEFITS OF MEDICINE DURING WAR

"The past war was a medical war, the war of the future will be a war of bacteria, and the nation which gives its doctors military authority commensurate with their responsibility will have the advantage," said Dr. Charles H. Mayo, prominent surgeon of Rochester, Minn., and colonel-advisory to Surgeon-General Gorgas at Washington during the war, who is in Paris attending the International Congress of Surgery. Dr. Mayo arrived in Paris on Sunday from England, where he received the honorary degree of Fellow of the Royal Society of Surgeons, and read a paper on the surgery of ulcers before the British Medical Association at Cambridge.

"When one realises that ten times as many deaths in war are caused by disease as are caused by actual casualties, and that the protection of populations against diseases such as typhus, typhoid and tetanus, by the use of serums, determines the result of war, one realises the importance of medicine."

"The failures in the past war were in campaigns where the medical department failed. The cause of failure mostly was due to the fact that doctors and surgeons wasted half their energy getting the application of modern methods put through Army channels—in combating red-tape when they should have been using their strength combating disease."

## Tripled France's Strength.

"The last war depended on sciences, and among them medicine was supreme. The whole French army was sent back three times into the line after suffering casualties. That is, medicine tripled the strength of France. It was due entirely to medical reasons that such a war could be carried on for five years—due to the benefits of modern surgery."

"There were several new things in medicine produced by the war. Primarily, the standardisation of method for the protection of peoples and the general education of the public was of value."

"Of the new methods, the prevention and care of infection by the Carrel-Dakin method received most attention. It was found, in this connection, that early débridement of wounds prevented infection."

"The war, by its wide use of serums, standardised methods of procedure in connection with special infections, such as tetanus and gas gangrene, and the standardisation of practice acquired through the treatment of thousands of fractures was also of great benefit."

"We have found that the chief way of turning the past war to the advantage of the world is in the development of sanitation and hygiene which was accorded to the fighting armies, especially during the last year of the war. We have found, too, that the medical profession must develop higher training in the scientific problems of the prevention of infections and plagues among the peoples of the world."

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