Middle Articles

Second International Conference on Protozoology

[FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT]

The Second International Conference on Protozoology was held in London from 29 July to 5 August under the patronage of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, F.R.S. The honorary president was Professor E. FAURÉ-FREMIET, F.R.S., the *grand maître* of protozoology to-day, and, at 82 years of age, the last surviving son of Gabriel Fauré. The president was Professor P. C. C. GARNHAM, F.R.S., and the vice-president Dr. C. A. HOARE, F.R.S. Nearly 600 delegates of 26 nationalities were present, and the Proceedings[1] were issued on the opening day in the form of lengthy abstracts with illustrations.

The first Conference was held in Prague in 1961, and since that time the subject of protozoology has advanced considerably in the realm of ultrastructure and biochemistry. This was reflected in fine papers on ciliates by French and American workers, on sporozoans (including *Eimeria*) by Russians, Czechs, and Germans, and on locomotion by the Poles, Americans, and British. The value of Protozoa (particularly *Paramecium*) to the general study of genetics was emphasized by Professor T. M. Sonneborn, F.R.S., and Professor G. H. Beale, F.R.S., and this aspect was further developed by J. R. Preer, of Philadelphia, in relation to the kappa particles and their relatives.

In Prague the special subject for discussion in the parasitic protozoa was toxoplasmosis; in London, piroplasmosis was chosen as an infection which presents an interesting field of research, but the problem of the life history of the piroplasms has apparently advanced little since the original discovery of Theobald Smith in 1893 of the tick transmission of the infection (the first demonstration that arthropods were concerned in the transmission of any infection). Though the life history of *Toxoplasma gondii* has still not been conclusively proved, W. M. HUTCHINSON[2] (Glasgow) described the apparent transmission of the organism through the egg of *Toxocara cati*. The prophylactic value of living vaccines for protozoal diseases was demonstrated for the first time by MARGARET L. WEISS (Michigan), who used a non-invasive strain of *Plasmodium berghei* for rodent malaria, and by M. A. SOLTYS (Cambridge), who used a strain of *Trypanosoma brucei*, inactivated with β-propiolactone, against trypanosomiasis in mice. A new model in malaria research is now made available by the discovery of *Plasmodium chabaudi* by Mme. IRENE LANDAU (Paris); this rodent malaria parasite is easily transmissible by mosquitoes (*Anopheles stephensi*), and large numbers of exoerythrocytic schizonts are produced in the liver.

Of interest to human medicine were papers on the little-known organisms, *Hartmanella castellanii* and *Pneumocystis carinii*. The detection and identification of the latter were discussed by R. G. YAEGER (New Orleans) for cases of pneumocystis pneumonia in infants, while J. K. FRENKEL (Kansas City) described the pathogenesis and chemotherapy of the organism, reporting that sulphadiazine and pyrimethamine were found to be effective and also various new antibiotics; K. KUČERA (Prague) demonstrated new stages in the life history of the organism. *Hartmanella castellanii* has been shown to have caused seven fatal human cases in recent years, and C. G. CULBERTSON (Indianapolis) gave an interesting paper on experimental hartmannellosis in mice and monkeys, showing that the intranasal inoculation of the organism was followed by severe haemorrhagic meningoencephalitis. The source of infection of man is thought to be a free-living stage of the organism present in swimming-baths and other fresh waters.

[1] International Congress Series No. 91, Excerpta Medica Foundation.
[2] Hutchinson, W. M., *Nature (Lond.)*, 1965, **206**, 961.

MEDICAL HISTORY

The Pybus Collection

The University of Newcastle upon Tyne has announced with pride that Emeritus Professor F. C. Pybus, F.R.C.S., formerly professor of surgery in the University of Durham, has given to the University his collection of medical books, portraits, and engravings. The collection is to be administered by four trustees, one of whom is to be the University Librarian, "for the purposes of and as part of the University Library," and it is to be kept together.

Though Professor Pybus has never courted publicity for his collection, those who know it have long been aware of its interest and value. He began collecting in the early 1920s and concentrated on building up a library of books illustrative of the history of surgery and anatomy and of medical illustration; to these he added engravings, portraits, and letters of medical men. The collection has always been selective; in many instances the copy of a work now in the collection is the third or fourth, the previous ones having been discarded in favour of a finer copy.

Fine Copies

The collection, one of the finest in its field in Great Britain, comprises some 2,500 volumes, 2,000 engravings, and 50 portraits and busts. From such a wealth of material it is difficult to select individual items, but a few of the outstanding books may be mentioned. The earliest volume is a fourteenth-century illustrated manuscript of the works of John of Arderne, while the incunabula, or books printed before 1501, include the works of Celsus, printed at Florence in 1478; of Bartholomaeus Anglicus, Strassburg, 1485, in a contemporary binding; and of J. M. Savonarola, Venice, 1497, in an early sixteenth-century London binding. Among works published in the sixteenth century are Andrew Boorde's *Breviary of healthe*, 1557; Petrus de Argellata, *Cirurgia*, Venice, 1513, in a German binding of the same century; and a superb copy of the second edition of the *De humanis corporis fabrica* of Vesalius. (Since this edition is much finer typographically than the first, Professor Pybus was content with it and did not seek a copy of the first edition.) Aselli, Auenbrugger, Bartholin, Bell, Cheselden, Estienne, Fabricius, de Graaf, the Hunters, Lind, the Monros, Rueff, and others—all are here in beautiful copies. The more recent classics are well represented: autographed copies of the works of Sir J. Y. Simpson; first editions, in the original wrappers, of the works of Pasteur; and later names up to Fleming on penicillin. The finest item in the collection, however, is undoubtedly William Harvey's copy of his *De generatione animalium*, 1651, with copious notes in his own hand.

The collection is now housed, in the original bookcases, in the Committee Room of the University Library, which has been renamed the Pybus Room, where it will be available for consultation by serious students of the history of medicine. The University of Newcastle already possesses, thanks largely to the efforts of Professor Pybus, a special medical collection which includes the libraries of the former College of Medicine and of the Newcastle Infirmary (now the Royal Victoria Infirmary), the latter containing the library of an earlier collector, Dr. T. M. Winterbottom, of South Shields. The presence of the Pybus Collection within the University Library now ensures that it occupies a leading place among medico-historical libraries in Great Britain.

The thanks of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and of all medical historians and bibliographers are due to Professor Pybus for the gift of his magnificent library and for his generous and far-sighted action in ensuring that it will be preserved intact in this country for the use of future generations of scholars.

WM. S. MITCHELL.