

session of the Australasian Medical Congress. It also decided to award a Henry Simpson Newland prize in surgery for an essay on a surgical subject. The first Henry Simpson Newland Oration was delivered this year, in the presence of Sir Henry Newland, by Sir VICTOR HURLEY, who succeeded Sir Henry as president of the Federal Council.

Sir Victor Hurley reviewed his predecessor's work and laid special emphasis on his activities on behalf of the Federal Committee and of its successor the Federal Council. He then went on to discuss the changing state of hospitals in Australia. At the conclusion a vote of thanks was accorded to Sir Victor Hurley on the motion of Dr. A. J. Collins, the present president of the Federal Council.

After the oration, honorary degrees were conferred by the Chancellor of the University of Melbourne upon the following: Professor C. H. Best, of Canada; Professor W. E. Le Gros Clark, of England; Professor E. C. Dodds, of England; Mr. John Foster, of England; Dr. N. McA. Gregg, of New South Wales (in recognition of his work on maternal rubella and congenital abnormalities); Dr. F. Avery Jones, of England; Sir Henry Newland, of South Australia; Dr. A. B. Reese, of the United States of America; and Professor Lambert Rogers, of Wales.

Scientific Programme

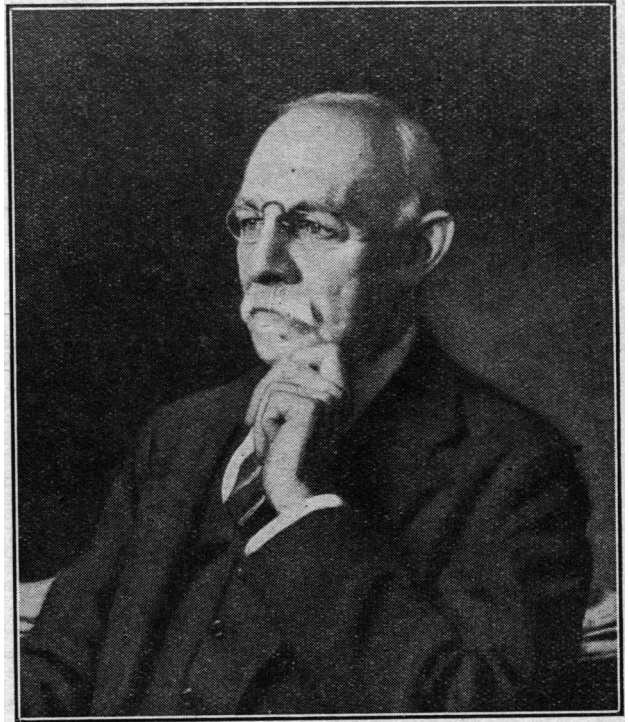
The scientific programme covered four days. Two days were given over to combined discussions. Two of these were panel discussions, which dealt respectively with hypertension and a review of the antibiotics. The subjects of the other combined discussions were: clinical problems of the menopause, a review of poliomyelitis, the uses of cortisone and A.C.T.H., recent advances in infectious diseases, mass management of burns, the medical care of the aged, the diagnosis and treatment of the common cough, and pruritus. The remainder of the work of the congress was carried out in Sections, which were: Anaesthesia; Dermatology; History of Medicine; Medicine; Naval, Military, and Air Force Medicine and Surgery; Neurology and Psychiatry; Obstetrics and Gynaecology; Ophthalmology; Orthopaedics and Physical Medicine; Oto-rhinolaryngology; Pathology, Bacteriology, Biochemistry, Experimental Medicine, and Forensic Medicine; Paediatrics; Public Health, Industrial Medicine, Tropical Medicine, and Aviation Medicine; Radiology and Radiotherapy; Surgery. Combined sessions of some of the Sections were arranged, and in each Section a presidential address was delivered by the president. Dr. F. Avery Jones and Sir Gordon Gordon-Taylor took part in a discussion on the management of the complications of peptic ulcer. Professor Le Gros Clark read a paper on the importance of the study of the "primitive" structure of the cerebrum. Mr. John Foster read papers on "the practitioner's guide to fundus oculi," "curiosa ophthalmica," the Budinger-Muller lid plastic operation, and the Ridley lenticulus operation. Dr. A. B. Reese (U.S.A.) discussed primary glaucoma, melanosis of the conjunctiva, and trends in cataract surgery, in three separate papers. Professor Lambert Rogers took part in a discussion on the thoracic syndrome. Symposia were held *inter alia* on the problems of epilepsy, and on the uses and abuses of sedative drugs, on prematurity, on Murray Valley encephalitis, and on the backward child. Dr. E. H. Derrick discussed the epidemiology of "Q" fever, and Dr. A. S. Walker described the history of the Australian hospital ships during the 1939-45 war. Dr. J. K. Maddox, of Sydney, described medical experiences in the surgery of mitral stenosis; Mr. F. H. Mills and Mr. C. J. O. Brown discussed the surgical aspects of mitral valve surgery.

Congress Dinner

The congress dinner was held on August 28, in the Exhibition Building, in the presence of Sir Dallas Brooks, Governor of Victoria, and Lady Brooks. The toast of the British Medical Association was proposed by Sir Owen Dixon, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia. The reply was made by Dr. A. J. Collins, President of the Federal Council.

WILLIAM STEWART HALSTED

This year there have been celebrations in both America and Britain to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of William Stewart Halsted, one of the great names among the founders of modern surgery. Halsted, whose ancestry was English on both sides, was born in New York on September 23, 1852. Elsewhere in this *Journal* (p. 655) the story of his life is told and his contributions to the science of surgery are recorded. Also in this issue the two volumes of Halsted's surgical papers, which were



specially reprinted for the centenary celebrations in Baltimore, are reviewed by Mr. David H. Patey (p. 653). The portrait on this page shows Halsted as he appeared towards the end of his life.

Appropriately the American centenary celebrations were held at Baltimore, for it was here, at the Johns Hopkins Medical School and Hospital, that the most fruitful years of Halsted's life were spent. On February 7 the Society of University Surgeons, the Society of Clinical Surgery, and the Halsted Club met there to honour Halsted. In the morning friends and pupils described the man they remembered; in the afternoon his work was the theme. It was as one of the afternoon papers that Mr. Patey, representing British surgeons, delivered his address on Halsted's influence on British surgery.

Britain honoured Halsted with a special meeting of the Section of Surgery of the Royal Society of Medicine, held on May 20. At this meeting Dr. Alfred Blalock, the present holder of the chair of surgery at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, gave an unforgettable account of Halsted's influence on surgery. Another surgeon from the Johns Hopkins Hospital and a former colleague of Halsted, Dr. S. J. Crowe, spoke of his personal recollections of Dr. Halsted. The British speakers were Mr. R. S. Handley, whose subject was the internal mammary lymph chain in carcinoma of the breast, and Dr. W. R. Bett.

At this meeting Dr. Blalock, who was accorded the honorary fellowship of the Royal Society of Medicine, presented a portrait of Halsted to Sir Cecil Wakeley for the Royal College of Surgeons, and Dr. Crowe gave Halsted's favourite walking-stick as a keepsake to the Royal Society of Medicine.