

**6th International Dental Congress, 1914,
DAILY JOURNAL.
LONDON.**

TELEGRAM FROM H.M. THE KING,

“Buckingham Palace.

*“To the President, Sixth International Dental Congress,
Imperial Institute.*

*“I am commanded by the King to thank the Members of
the Sixth International Dental Congress for their kind telegram.*

“STAMFORDHAM.”

Opening Meeting.

The Sixth International Dental Congress was opened in the Central Hall, Westminster, on the morning of Tuesday, August 4, under the Presidency of Mr. J. Howard M u m m e r y, M.R.C.S., L.D.S.

A note of regret was struck at the opening of the Congress by the declaration of Mr. H. R. T. B r o o k s, one of the General Secretaries, that Mr. H e r b e r t S a m u e l, the President of the Local Government Board, was unable officially to open the Congress. The following telegram was read: „Greatly regret that in circumstances now existing impossible for me to attend opening of Congress to-morrow. I wish every success to meeting.—H e r b e r t S a m u e l.”

The P R E S I D E N T said the following telegram was being sent to H.M. the King:—

„August 4, 1914.

„This meeting in London of the Sixth International

Dental Congress, mindful of Your Majesty's devotion to and interest in science and humanity, begs to send its dutiful homage and warmest expressions of respect and gratitude".

The President deeply regretted the circumstances which prevented Mr. Samuel opening the meeting, and on behalf of the Congress offered his sincere thanks to Mr. Samuel and the heads of the Government Department not only for their personal kindness in connection with the arrangements for the Congress, but for the evidence which that assistance afforded of the interest taken by the State in all movements which tended to the welfare of the community. He then on behalf of his British colleagues welcomed the delegates, and sincerely hoped that the Congress would be fruitful in useful work and would assist in promoting a better understanding among the nations (cheers). The President then delivered his Presidential Address. (waarin uitgewijd wordt over den invloed van pathologische processen in de mondholte en klem wordt gelegd op de beteekenis der tandheelkunde voor de volksgezondheid. Spreker meent dan ook wel aangetoond te hebben de noodzakelijkheid van meerder onderricht betreffende dit terrein aan de aanstaande geneeskundigen).

Mr. W. B. Paterson (The President of the International Dental Federation) also welcomed the delegates. He regretted that the catastrophe of war had deprived the Congress of members from four of the largest countries in Europe besides six smaller States. But for that he believed the Congress would have been a record one amongst international dental meetings. Notwithstanding the diminutions in number, however, he ventured to assert that the Congress would be found sufficiently representative of all that was best in the science and art of dentistry. Dental science was international; war could not stop its progress for the benefit of humanity. Furthermore, war

could not destroy the friendship of the delegates. Great Britain would endeavour to make the delegates' stay in London socially pleasurable, and he was sure the Congress would make it eminently valuable from a scientific point of view (cheers).

Brief speeches were then delivered by many representatives of the British Colonies and foreign countries. The first called upon was Dr. E. T. White, who represented the National Dental Association of Australia and the Dental Board of New South Wales, and also the Odontological Society of Western Australia and Queensland. He mentioned that three small Congresses had been held in Australia. Previous to the first, dentists in that country were almost a disorganized rabble, but since that time the whole of Australia had been brought pretty well into line, and the dentists of the country were beginning to feel they were a pretty strong body and could approach the Governments of the various States with some effect. Anything he could take back from his visit to the Congress would be greatly appreciated on the other side of the world.

Professor H. P. Pickerill, as the representative of New Zealand, said that country was the youngest to be affiliated to the International Dental Federation, but it took the keenest interest in all the proceedings of the International Congress. It was a source of great gratification to know that New Zealand was now part and parcel of the Federation. Dental surgeons there were striving to maintain the ideals mentioned by the President in his address and to live up to a high standard, and the profession was now thoroughly organized and unified throughout the country (cheers).

Dr. A. J. Mc Donagh (Canada) said Canada had nearly 2,000 well-equipped dentists and three good dental colleges. The profession was not as large as the dental profession in the British Isles, but it had begun to build itself up on scientific principles. In the past the dental

profession in Canada had been separated from the medical profession, but in the last few years the two professions had been coming more closely together, because it had been found in Canada, as in other countries, that the health of the whole body depended materially on the health of the integral parts of the oral cavity.

Dr. William Johnston (South Africa) said his fellow delegate and himself were present at the Congress not to teach but to learn, and he believed what they would learn would be in inverse proportion to the length of his speech.

Sir Juan B. Patrone (Argentine Republic), Dr. Hjalmar Avellan (Finland), and M. L. Cocoris (Greece) addressed the Congress in Spanish, Finnish and German respectively.

Dr. Vincenzo Guerini (Italy), in expressing his pleasure at being present at the Congress, exhibited a bust of the late Professor W. D. Miller, of Berlin, which, he said, he had prevailed upon Professor Miller, on a visit to Italy two years before his death, to permit to be modelled by one of the first sculptors of Naples.

Dr. T. Hol. Shamine (Japan) said it was the first time that the Japanese Government had been officially represented at an International Dental Congress, and it was a source of the greatest satisfaction to him to be present not only on that account, but also owing to the fact that the Congress took place in the capital of a great nation with which Japan had such close relations (cheers). The Japanese Government had followed with keen interest the progress of science in many departments, and their interest would be quite as keen in the science of dentistry, which was of such great importance for the general hygiene of the people.

Sir Don Miguel Denecri (Peru) spoke in Spanish.

Dr. M. A. Minker expressed the greetings of the National Dental Federation of Russia.

Dr. Florestan Aguilar spoke in the name of

the Spanish Government and the Spanish Dental Association, and hoped the Congress would mark another great step in the progress of dentistry.

Dr. S t e n H a g e r, representing the Swedish Government and the Swedish Dental Society, presented greetings, and said the Swedish Government had accepted the invitation to send a representative to the Congress with very great pleasure.

Dr. T e n t y brought greetings from Egypt, where, he said, owing to the cosmopolitan nature of the country, a dental society had only come into being in April last.

Dr. J. S. B u r n e t t (Uruguay) said the Dental Association of Uruguay had done and was doing a great deal of good to improve the conditions and status of the dental profession in that country, and the President and Committee of the Association had authorized him to express their heartiest wishes for the success of the Congress.

Dr. B u r k h a r d t spoke on behalf of the National Dental Association of America, composed of representatives from the various States and Territorial Societies of the United States. Since the Congress held in Berlin five years ago the profession in America had received Government recognition to the extent of the formation of Army and Navy Corps, had been recognised by the various State Government by being placed upon State Boards of Health, and had been established in the schools under the municipalities. The science of oral hygiene had received a very marked impetus by reason of the campaign which had been carried on by the dentists of the United States. At present there was an agitation for increasing the three years' course to four years, and he believed that before another International Congress was held that would have been brought about.

The following also addressed the meeting on behalf of their respective countries:—

Dr. H o r t a (Brazil) and Dr. C h a c i n I t r i a g o (Venezuela).

The President, in declaring the meeting closed, said he had unfortunately to announce that owing to present conditions the Government were unable to give to the Congress the dinner which had been arranged, and the banquet at the White City had also of necessity been abandoned.

The meeting then adjourned until the afternoon.

In the afternoon the General Session was held in the Central Hall, Westminster, the President, Mr. J. H o w a r d M u m m e r y, occupying the chair.

The President explained that the afternoon sitting was to be devoted to scientific addresses from the delegates of different countries. Unfortunately Dr. M. R o y, Director of the Ecole Dentaire de Paris, who was to have delivered an Address on „The Pathological Origin and Prophylaxis of Pyorrhoea Alveolaris according to Clinical Data”, was unable to attend, and for the same reason Hofrat Professor Dr. O. W a l k h o f f, of Munich, who was to have read a paper on „The Jaws and Teeth of Prehistoric Man and their Importance in Human Evolution”, was absent.

The first address read was on „The Tendencies in Dental Education” by Dr. E. C. K i r k, Dean of the Dental Faculty, University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A., who, in the course of a highly interesting paper, said there had not been lacking, ever since the establishment of dentistry as a profession upon an independently organized educational basis, those who had deeply deplored the outstanding fact that the hiatus between medicine and dentistry was ever permitted to exist, and fair-minded thinkers within the professional ranks of dentistry, as well as within the ranks of the medical profession, had been battling earnestly with the problem in an endeavour to obliterate the artificial and unwarranted distinction in a professional sense which had been allowed to grow and to continue to exist between

the speciality of dentistry and the group of specialities constituting the general field of medical education and practice. On the other hand, there had continued to exist within the ranks of the dental profession a fairly large proportion of that class who had unprotestingly accepted for themselves socially, and their work professionally, the unenviable position assigned to them by the critic who had in general impeached their respectability. It was significant that from the beginning of the history of organized dental education it had been clearly, if not generally, recognized that the vital relationships of their professional work demanded for the practitioner a kind and extent of preparation that necessitated an educational curriculum which should train the prospective dentist adequately in a knowledge of the composition, structure, and function of the human body, both in health and disease. It had become physically impossible for any single human mind to grasp intelligently more than a small fraction of human knowledge, and it was necessary to be content with an intimate knowledge of some special field. As a result medicine had inevitably become divided into numerous special departments, each requiring as much time and attention as was formerly given to all that was previously known of medicine, and they must necessarily look forward to a time in the near future when the entire system of medical education would be reorganized on lines fundamentally different from its ancient basis. The dental profession had asserted that the infected human mouth was a fertile source of bodily disease; the medical profession had examined the question and agreed that the assertion was true, and the general public now asked what was to be done about it. The only valid answer that dentistry could practically make was to educate its practitioners that they should be competent to eradicate the evil complained of. It was his personal opinion that, in view of the practical impossibility of combining the present medical curriculum with the present dental curricu-

lum so as to, in view of the present economic conditions, train the dental practitioner to the best advantage, their obvious course was to enlarge the scope and improve the character of the special dental curriculum so as to adequately meet modern educational demands.

The second, and last, address delivered at the Session was on „Narcosis”, by Dr. W. G u y, Dean of the Edinburgh Dental School, and President of the British Dental Association. He commenced by saying that the fact that it was due to a member of the dental profession, H o r a c e W e l l s, of Hartford, Connecticut, that humanity owed the priceless boon of surgical anæsthesia must ever be a source of pride and satisfaction to dentists. Personally he had never ceased to maintain that chloroform was the most unsuitable and dangerous of anæsthetics, and that its employment as such could be but seldom justified. The administration of chloroform to a patient in the sitting position was an act reckless to the point of criminality; and the man who gave chloroform for a dental operation was either ignorant and incompetent, or was deliberately sinning against the light. Ether was a far less dangerous drug than chloroform, inasmuch as it never poisoned a healthy patient, save by an overdose. For prolonged dental operations, nitrous oxide and ether in mixture or sequence was of proved value, and the nitrous-oxide-oxygen and ether mixture was even better. He held the view that the nitrous-oxide-oxygen mixture ought to supersede entirely nitrous oxide alone as an anæsthetic agent in dental surgery, and that it was the immediate and urgent duty of all anæsthetists and practioners to become expert in its administration. Much work, however, remained to be done, and the unknown might hold some drug whose anæsthetic virtues far transcended those of any known agent.

The Congress then adjourned.

As we go to press with the first number of the Daily

Journal the opening of the Congress has already taken place, and we take this, the earliest opportunity, to intimate the kindly greeting of Mr. J. H o w a r d M u m m e r y, the honoured President of the Congress. It is matter for serious regret that the condition of the political atmosphere has prevented the attendance of a number of members who were hoping to take part, but, in spite of all untoward circumstances, we may feel that the Congress has been most successfully inaugurated, and we may hope that it will result in a notable contribution to our common fund of knowledge and the definite advancement of our profession.

Die wensch is zeker maar voor een klein deel in vervulling gegaan, want Woensdagavond voorzag de Voorzitter, dat de door het Congres in beslag genomen gebouwen door de Regeering zouden worden opgeëischt voor de mobilisatie en dat deshalve den volgenden dag wel de sluiting moest worden afgekondigd. Die vertrouwelijke voorspelling was voor ons gezelschapje eene aansporing om 's avonds nog te pakken en den volgenden ochtend met de Koningin Regentes der Vlissinger Lijn huiswaarts te gaan. Dat lukte tot onze groote vreugde, want nu verlangden we toch ook allen weer in het eigen land te zijn.

Het hierboven onvertaalde gedeelte nemen we ter wille van de juistheid en uitgebreidheid over uit het officiële Congresblad, dat Woensdag voor het eerst verscheen. Daarin werden verder aangekondigd de wijzigingen van het werk- en het feestprogram; en die waren talrijk. Zooals begrijpelijk is, was de schrale opkomst een geweldige knak voor het succes van dit Congres en eene groote teleurstelling voor de organisateurs en allen, die op het program vermeld stonden.

Hoeveel is er voor niet gewerkt; neemt de catalogi en ziet wat ons al geboden werd aan wat wetenschappelijk, praktisch, feestelijk was. Een eeresaluut voor dat alles! En de betrekkelijk kleine schare van aanwezigen was niet

in de stemming, noch om nuttig voor zich zelf te zijn, noch om gezamenlijk te genieten van het aangeboden onthaal na de werkuren. Allen droegen in zich den ernst van de omstandigheden tehuis en ieder miste den handdruk van de velen, die hij op zulke zeldzame bijeenkomsten voelt.

Dát is van bijzondere beteekenis: het onderhouden en aanleggen van kennismaking met de mannen, die vooraanstaan in ons beroep en nu reeds tal van jaren van over de heele wereld samen komen om het vooruit te helpen, zoowel tot nut der menschheid als in aanzien bij het menschdom; de gezichtskring uitbreiden en te zien en te hooren, wat er buiten eigen kringen omgaat!

Afgevaardigden van vele landen, welke nu de gewapende machten tegen elkaar injagen en van weer andere natiën, die secundair in beroering gebracht waren, werden tevergeefs opgeroepen om hun broedergroet te brengen en verslag te doen van den stand van ons beroep ten hunnent. Ook van ons land werd geen klank gehoord. De post, die de opdracht zou brengen aan een onzer om dat woord uit te brengen uit naam onzer Regeering, was vertraagd en bereikte ons nog juist op het moment van het vertrek uit Londen.

Zoo is het ons door wijzigingen van het programma, door vroegtijdig vertrek en door de algemeen gedrukte stemming (wij hadden onderwijl nog allerlei inlichtingen in te winnen voor eene mogelijk thuisreis) slechts mogelijk een zeer kort en bovendien zeer onvolledig verslag te geven van datgene, wat nog plaats gehad heeft. Vermeld dient nog de „informal social meeting in the Victoria-Hall at the Cecil Hotel” op Maandagavond, waar de conversatie betrof de vragen: hoe ben je hier gekomen en hoe kom je hier weer vandaan? Dat werd zoowat herhaald en aangevuld met allerlei telegrafisch nieuws van het vaste land op de recepties bij den „Lord-Mayor and corporation of London” in den Guild-Hall op Dinsdagavond om 8.30 en

bij den „President and council at the Royal College of Surgeons” op Woensdag om 4 uur. Het „Invitation Banquet given by His Majesty’s Government” op Woensdag om 7.30 kon wegens politieke omstandigheden niet doorgaan. Daarvoor in de plaats werden ons kaarten verstrekt voor het Coliseum (theater). Van de genoegens op het program voor de ladies-visitors kunnen wij geen getuigenis afleggen. Maar het was in orde, zooals alles.

Woensdag hebben een paar secties eene slecht bezochte bijeenkomst gehouden en werden terzelfder tijd enkele der demonstraties gegeven. Bovendien werd nog wat tijd besteed aan de exposities der verschillende firma’s. Door uitstel tot geschikte gelegenheid om kalm rond te gaan in het bijeengebrachte museum, waarvan de buitengewone waarde blijkt uit een catalogus, zijn we hiervan geheel onbekend gebleven. En wat er verder is geschied? Wij weten het nog niet.

Fédération Dentaire Internationale.

Maandagmorgen om 10 uur werd deze bijeenkomst geopend en na een inleidend woord van den Voorzitter, toesproken door den „Vice-Chancellor of the University, Sir William Herringham”. De gebruikelijke reden van aanwezige afgevaardigden volgden en hiervan zij vermeld, dat Dr. Aguilar van Madrid de uitnodiging van den Minister van Buitenlandsche Zaken van Spanje meebracht om het volgende congres (1919) in de hoofdstad van zijn land te doen houden. De invitatie van Amerikaansche zijde om New-York daarvoor te kiezen werd door Prof. Brophy daarna ingetrokken, wijl het volgende jaar San-Francisco een internationaal congres houdt en Amerika waardeering wil toonen voor de eer, gebracht door de Spaansche regeering. Zoo vervallen dan ook alle kansen dat Brussel het volgende congres zal huisvesten, want ook van die zijde was eene uitnodiging ingekomen, maar er was geen

Belg om zijne kansen nog in de weegschaal te leggen. Door het congres is den volgenden dag besloten om in 1919 in Madrid samen te komen. Verder enkele huis-houdelijke bezigheden, bestaande in het voorlezen van rapporten, verslagen, enz., onvolledig, omdat zoovele zetels onbezet bleven. De uitreiking van den Miller-prijs is uitgesteld.

's Namiddags vergaderden twee sectiën, (waarvan slechts ééne door ons werd bijgewoond), daarna werden in eene algemeene vergadering weer rapporten uitgebracht enz. Om 3 uur kwam de Commission on Education bijeen. Prof. Kirk presideerde en Mr. Guy maakte notulen, andere bestuursleden waren er niet en het getal leden en toehoorders bleef beneden de tien.

De Voorzitter bracht een rapport uit, waarin hij vermeldde, dat er in onderwijszaken in de Vereenigde Staten een keerpunt genaderd is: tot heden gold de vraag: hoe wordt de student het best voorbereid voor zijne toekomstige praktijk, in het vervolg zal er op een anderen streep van het compas gevaren worden. Men wil nu het onderwijs zóódanig inrichten, dat de student reeds zal kunnen meehelpen aan de oplossing van wetenschappelijke vraagstukken. De technische opleiding heeft zoolang aller aandacht bezig gehouden, dat zij op het heden niet meer aanspraak heeft op de beste krachten; deze moeten zich nu productief maken op het wetenschappelijke gebied, maar de moeilijkheid wordt gevoeld van de opstelling van een leerprogram met eene juiste verdeling van practische en theoretische lessen, waarin dan de laatste eene belangrijker plaats krijgen. De Europeanen hebben steeds doen voelen, dat zulke wijziging van het leerprogram der Amerikaansche Instituten wenschelijk was. Een student moet niet alleen weten het Hoe, maar ook het Waarom: eye, hand and mind moeten gelijke waarde worden toegekend bij het onderwijs. Een factor van eveneens groot belang is de bezetting van leerstoelen door geschikte onderwijs-krachten.

Docenten moeten óók gevormd, als 't ware geschoold worden. Onderwijs geven is uiterst moeilijk en niet steeds eene gave, eigen aan den geleerde. 't Is eene aparte kunst en Spreker vertelde, dat docenten te Philadelphia den z.g. „Normal Club' gevormd hebben en elkaar daar onderrichten inzake onderwijsmethoden.

Het besef van het nut van dit vraagstuk breidt zich langzamerhand verder uit en ook de sectie voor paedagogie van de Association of Dental Faculties in de V.S. werkt er aan.

Den teleurgestelden lezer zij aanbevolen later de Handelingen van het Congres ter hand te nemen voor volledige verslagen.