

encountered along the way. But what is important is for the programmes to take root, like seeds carried by the wind to difficult soils—but which somehow sprout and grow, enabling a better soil to build up around them. Even if 90 % of the goals set are not reached, even if the level of success is much less, a start has been made, new trails have been blazed. The sum of the energies spent will not have been in vain. Others, much later, will perhaps know the results.

I believe that, in Africa south of the Sahara, UNICEF can make its most useful contribution by concentrating on two essential fields of development : public health, to retain and strengthen the achievements of the past decades ; and education, to enable all children to have access to schools. There we have ample matter for work for a long time to come.

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## THE FIGHT AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

*The Proceedings of the XVIII International Tuberculosis Conference have just been published.<sup>1</sup> This meeting, organized by the International Union Against Tuberculosis, was held in Munich in October 1965 and was attended by delegates from many countries. It enabled an extensive and up-to-date report to be drawn up on efforts in developed and developing countries for research into this disease which plagues humanity at all ages and everywhere. Yet it must not be forgotten, as the Chairman, Professor E. Schröder of Berlin, reminded the Conference in his opening address, that these efforts, immense as they are, originated in research and initiative, on both a national and an international level, going back half a century. We believe our readers will be interested in the following extracts on this subject, taken from Professor Schröder's address.*

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<sup>1</sup> International Congress Series No. 119, Excerpta Medica Foundation, 1966, 468 pp.

It would be appropriate to look back on the history of the organized struggle against the world-wide disease of tuberculosis but such a survey would be too limited in its scope. We should, instead, cast our minds back even further, to the day, a hundred years ago, when at a meeting of the French Medical Academy Villemin brought experimental proof that human tuberculosis is contagious. His discovery derived from the investigations of his great compatriot Laennec, who laid the foundations of the pathological study of TB and, by introducing auscultation into the treatment, provided an important addition to the percussion theory of the Austrian Auenbrugger.

If we remember that Laennec, like Pasteur, was inspired by the medical research and findings of the Swiss Albrecht Haller, who in the middle of the 18th Century prepared the way for scientific medicine, we realize that generations of scientists collaborated as a truly European community. Germany's important contribution came in 1882, when Robert Koch and Paul Baumgarten simultaneously swept away the fog of uncertainty and demonstrated the existence of the tuberculosis bacillus. From then on the fight against tuberculosis was subject to the scientific methods already applied to other branches of medicine, extended and enriched in the succeeding decades.

In this country, and in fact in this city of Munich, we remember in particular the scientific work of the physicist Wilhelm Röntgen, whose contribution is incalculable and as essential to our modern procedures as the immuno-biological studies of the Austrian, von Pirquet, to whom we owe new and valuable methods of making an early diagnosis. In the last few decades chemical research has placed at our disposal an almost unimaginable number of highly-effective drugs; the name of Domagk should not be forgotten in this connection . . .

. . . When one considers that this century has seen the introduction of so many means of improving and maintaining the health of mankind and of conquering disease, one is tempted to ask, perhaps, why the fight against our enemy, tuberculosis, has not already been won and why it should still be necessary, in this year of 1965, for an international congress to devote itself to such problems. We ask ourselves if we shall ever succeed in eradicating the disease.

Nowadays the word 'eradication' is often encountered in epidemiology and in this connection a misunderstanding exists, for we are now not primarily concerned with the cause of the disease but with its victim, mankind, the individual, *Homo sapiens*, aware not only of his existence but also of his limitations. He is also *Homo societatis*, inseparable from the structure and changes of his social environment. The scope of scientific medicine must therefore include a health policy, which a contemporary politician has described as 'the responsibility of both statesmen and doctors'. This aspect, the need for a planned health programme, is echoed again and again in the reports of congress proceedings, in which the three divisions are stressed—the biological, the clinical (i.e. diagnostic and therapeutic) and the social point of view.

In 1898 the Viennese clinician von Schrötter suggested that the struggle against tuberculosis be taken up actively by the organization, which up to then had merely discussed the results of research. The German Central Committee for the Foundation of Tuberculosis Sanatoria, which had been active since 1895, was entrusted with the task of preparing a congress, the aim of which was 'to combat the widespread disease of tuberculosis'. Invitations were sent out to all countries, not only to doctors and medical faculties but also to governments, municipal authorities, insurance and public health organizations and voluntary welfare boards. The report of the proceedings fills almost 900 pages and describes how, on the 24th of May, 1899, in the presence of the Empress, the delegates filled every available seat in the Reichstag in Berlin, each in evening-dress as requested in the invitation.

In his opening address Count von Posadowski-Wehner, Secretary of State for the Interior and also Chairman of the Central Committee, referred to another meeting being held at the same time. 'Coinciding with the congress of statesmen now in session in The Hague', he said, 'the aim of which is to seek ways and means of avoiding or at least ameliorating the horrors of war, a congress opens today at which medical authorities and high-minded philanthropists from all parts of the globe meet together, resolved to consider methods of reducing and curing the most widespread of all diseases afflicting mankind. These two events will in future ages serve as landmarks in the history of our era'.

I should like to recall the last occasion of this kind, at the opening of the 10th International Conference, held in Lisbon in 1937 . . . Thus we see that the impulses emanating from the Berlin congress of 1899 continued to be felt during the years that followed.

One of the most outstanding of the many congresses was that held in Washington in 1908, at which Robert Koch delivered his last great lecture on the 'Relationships between human and bovine tuberculosis', a well-received non-controversial work. The name of Bang occurs among the list of other speakers. The solemn public Closing Session was honoured by the presence of Theodore Roosevelt, who addressed the assembly.

The series of working committees henceforth called International Tuberculosis Conference began in Berlin in 1902, under the chairmanship of the French phthisiologist Brouardel. It was at this conference that the red double-barred Cross of Lorraine was chosen as symbol of the organization. I quote here the words with which Sersiron, General Secretary of the French delegation, introduced the motion: 'In a struggle such as this a battle-standard is needed. We suggest a double-barred red cross as our sign. Like the Geneva cross it will serve as a symbol of peace, reminding us that all men are brothers and should dedicate themselves to the care of the sick. The general staff of the army against tuberculosis is gathered here, its cohorts filled with eager courage and optimism. As the symbol of our alliance let us therefore choose this banner, to be borne at the head of our army and inspire us with enthusiasm for the cause'.

Twelve conferences of this kind were held in the capitals of Europe and in Philadelphia; the last of these met in Berne in September 1914, when the good work was interrupted by the First World War. The war years, the influenza epidemic of 1918 and the succeeding period of economic distress and social upheaval showed how much the biological and clinical factors of the fight to eradicate TB were still dependent on social conditions. The situation had become critical and the resumption of the former work was an urgent necessity. Thus the movement was reorganized in the form of the 'Union Internationale contre la Tuberculose' with its headquarters in Paris; after 45 years of activity it is now assembled here at the XVIIIth Conference. Despite changes in the structure

and name, the aim of the organization has remained the same since the turn of the century. We remember with gratitude the men who in those early days played a leading part in the campaign to investigate and combat tuberculosis.

Robert Koch, then head of the section 'Aetiology of TB', was on a research expedition in Italy at the time of the congress of 1899. In a telegram of greeting, Bernhardt Fränkel and Flüge informed him that during the conference no other name was mentioned more frequently than his. Virchow spoke on the importance of nutrition in the prevention of TB, Heubner discussed the disease in infants, and von Leyden and Dettweiler reported on aspects of sanatorium therapy. Among the delegates and speakers were von Ziemssen, the Munich clinician, and von Schrötter from Vienna.

The first conference of the new type was held in 1902 under the presidency of Brouardel who, together with Pannwitz of Berlin, guided the movement for many years. Calmette spoke for the first time and my professor at Tübingen, Paul von Baumgarten, described the fight against TB from the point of view of pathological mycology, Robert Koch conducted the delegates through his institute and Behring and Römer jointly issued invitations to a subsequent discussion and to a tour of inspection of the Institute in Marburg.

The congress held in Vienna in 1906 was distinguished by von Pirquet's paper on 'Allergy in Children' and by the suggestion put forward by Turban (Davos) on the classification of the various stages of tuberculosis. In 1912 the main theme—'Relationship between human and bovine tuberculosis'—was again discussed at the Rome meeting which was presided over by Bumm, president of the German Health Authority, deputizing for Léon Bourgeois, who was unable to attend because of illness. The main speaker was Calmette, supported by Kossel, Neufeld and Rabinowitsch. Hamburger (Vienna) spoke on the contribution made by experimental medicine to our knowledge of TB. The list of those who took part in the discussions includes such familiar names as Bacmeister, Beitzke, Gohn, Hamel and Huebschmann, while that of Ranke (Munich) appears for the first time. The proceedings were dominated by papers on the surgical therapy of pulmonary TB, the main

speakers in this respect being Brauer, Baer (Davos), Léon Bernard (Paris) and Sauerbruch (Zurich). At a public lecture illustrated by colour slides, Rollier (Leysin) reported on heliotherapy. In September 1914, despite the outbreak of war a month earlier, the discussions on heliotherapy and its scientific basis were continued at the 13th Congress in Berne. 'Occupational therapy and change of profession or trade', a question which is still topical, was also debated at the Berne conference.

All during the war years the review *Tuberculosis* kept the spirit of the movement alive and the members in touch with developments, and it was indeed fortunate that Léon Bourgeois, who up to then had been president, continued the good work with energy. Time does not permit me to describe here the many many names cropping up in the proceedings of the conferences held between 1920 and 1937 in Paris, London, Lausanne, Washington, Rome, Oslo, The Hague, Warsaw and Lisbon. Mention should be made, however, of the 1924 conference in Lausanne, the impressive Edinburgh address of Sir Robert Philip on the 'Effect of the Organized Fight Against Tuberculosis', and Morelli's Memorial Lecture on Carlo Forlanini and pneumothorax, in Rome in the year 1928. One should also mention the Oslo meeting in 1930 at which the main address, on immunization with BCG, was given by Calmette.

Denmark, a country which has long been exemplary and successful in combating TB, provided in 1950 an opportunity for the International Union to resume its work at the 11th International Conference in Copenhagen, with Jensen as president and Etienne Bernard as general secretary. The year 1952 saw the first meeting of the conference in South America, that of Rio de Janeiro, where the research work and roentgenological findings of the great and unforgotten Manoel de Abreu increased our knowledge of unknown tuberculosis, the main problem of prophylactic medicine. When the latest possibilities in the field of chemotherapy were debated in Madrid in 1954, it seemed as if our efforts were to be at last crowned with success, at least in those parts of the world already familiar with the problem. From then on it became evident that the peoples of Asia and Africa, striving to adapt themselves rapidly to changing conditions, were confronted by problems of health in general and by tuberculosis in particular. The conference which met in Delhi in

## MISCELLANEOUS

1957 marked a turning point in the history and tasks of the International Union. Mrs. Amrit Kaur, a distinguished lady who had already performed valuable services as president of the World Health Council, was named Honorary President of the conference at which Nehru, in an eloquent address, pointed out that there was scarcely a family in India which did not in some way come in contact with tuberculosis. He described such conferences as the best means of exchanging views and experiences on an international scale.

The subsequent congresses held in Istanbul and Toronto—one at the gateway to the Near East with its varying population density, the other at the edge of the sparsely-populated Canadian wastes—broadened our horizon. The purpose of this present conference, attended by official representatives of 79 nations, is to determine the direction of future tasks and methods. For this it will be necessary to know and be guided by the work of the preceding decades, the main points of which I have been trying to enumerate.

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