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Backward Glance
at the
International Society for
the History of Medicine

1920-1982

International Society for the History of Medicine
1970 and 1982

Part I : 1920-1970

First, I would like to thank the permanent Committee of the International Society and the Congress Committee of this 22nd Congress for selecting me, from among the long-time members of the society, to review the history of the International Society for the History of Medicine, in celebration of its first fifty years of existence.

Perhaps, this choice was determined by my prolonged membership of the permanent Committee. The fact remains that I am deeply touched and honoured by your enabling me to fulfil this mission on the occasion of this inaugural session. It is therefore with unconcealed emotion that I will recall cherished memories while retracing the annals of our Society before you.

However, it would be unforgivable if, before tackling this retrospective view, I neglected to tell you how much we all appreciated the kindness of your welcome and the legendary hospitality of your beautiful country. Furthermore, for me, the pleasure of being once again in Romania, among all of you, is accentuated by wonderful memories of former receptions in this country.

Allow me to stress the great contributions to the growth of our studies made, since the beginning of this century, by Romanian physicians and also, the importance of their efforts to develop the teaching of medical history, in addition to their personal work. I must also emphasize how beneficial to our Society was the competition provided by your historians and especially, the notably large numbers of them attending our congresses.

Once again, the meticulous care with which the organizing members of this Congress have constructed the program and regulated the finest details, is a measure of its scientific interest and harmonious development.

This allows me, in the name of all the servants of Science – which knows no frontiers – here reunited, to express our profound gratitude for all that you have done for this 22nd International Congress for the history of medicine.

Until the end of the last century, educated people were often disinterested in the history of medicine, whose social and scientific importance, although obvious, did not yet fully hold their attention.

At the beginning of this century, physicians decided to take greater interest in historical studies.

They began to realize that the history of medicine, like all other evolutionary studies, brought them closer to current phenomena, by providing them with a special sense that could not be obtained otherwise. From then on, the rebirth and diffusion of medical historical studies accelerated. And, whereas national societies for the history of medicine would emerge in many countries, it was during the sessions of the French society for the history of medicine that the idea and desire to create an international society were born and nurtured, in order to promote historical studies relating to the past of our speciality.

Among the promoters were DELAUNAY, JEANSELME, LAIGNEL-LAVASTINE, MENETRIER, NEUVEU but, the most enthusiastic of them all, was TRICOT-ROYER who had come to Paris to work in Mathias DUVAL's laboratory.

Later, JEANSELME was to remark : "He involved himself with all the foreign societies concerned with the history of medicine ; he travelled throughout France, knocking at all doors and, with apostolic fervour, was able to convert the tepid and even the indifferent".

This Franco-Belgian appeal was soon to receive support, for already from abroad, the DE LINTs from the Netherlands, SUDHOFF from Germany, ROLLESTON in London and DE ALCADE in Madrid, were enthusiastically sending their help.

The idea had taken root. Frequently, the warmest supporters of the French Society for the history of medicine were to be seen, at the end of their meetings, lingering on the terrace of a café at the Odéon, in order to finalize the first organization plan. Meanwhile, students strolled by on the pavements, humming the popular tunes of the time, the Xavier PRIVATs, Marcel LEGAY, the YOG-LUGs and the Dominique BONNAUTs.

In 1914, a conference organized by TRICOT-ROYER at the Sorbonne, to commemorate the birth of Vesalius four hundred years previously, was so successful that it triggered a final decision to convene the formative meeting for the new society, in October of the same year.

The First World War, soon to break out, provisionally put the advocates' projects on hold.

It was soon after the war, in 1920, that Doctor TRICOT-ROYER convened to a Congress in Antwerp all those who had been, with him, in conceiving the idea of forming an international Society for the history of medicine. Many supporters, from various European countries, also joined them. This Congress was an outstanding

success. Thus, the creation of the international Society was making good progress. Sure enough, at the second international Congress for the history of medicine, which was held in Paris, the following year, the Dutch medical historian, DE LINT, caused the following pledge to be approved by a show of voices : "Hereby established is an international Association for the history of medicine whose permanent commission will reside in Paris". The Society was born. The same year, its statutes were immediately approved and legally recognized. Doctor TRICOT-ROYER became its first president. Twenty new Congresses, organized by the Society, would succeed each other every two years, in spite of a ten-year interruption due to the Second World War, until today's Congress, which is the twenty-second.

Today, with the benefit of hindsight, one can enquire as to the precise goals aimed at by the promoters of the new society, at the moment of its creation.

From a reading of the statutes and, even more clearly, of the minutes of former meetings, one realizes that it was not so much the desire to create an international scientific society that attracted the most specialised scholars of different countries but rather, that of promoting by all means available, a liking or a trend, leading to the study of medical history and also, to the emphasis of its importance.

To this end, the newly created Society decided to organize, at first yearly, then every two years, an international Congress to which were invited not only physicians interested in history but also, pharmacists, veterinarians, botanists and biologists. Furthermore, also included were important and even ordinary people from the world of literature and sometimes, those responsible for the central or the cultural administration of the state, so as to involve as many auditors as possible and ensure support in areas close to the governments of interested countries.

In addition, the Society anticipated forming or, more accurately, getting its affiliated members to form national sections and persuading the respective countries to hold scientific reunions to which it would sometimes delegate a member of its office or of its permanent committee. It would encourage the publication of its members' work and would bring out a bulletin informing affiliated members of its activities.

Studying the archives suggests that the above were the intentions of the first directors of the Society, as found abstracted in the first article in the statutes :

“The society aims at studying all questions related to the history of the biological and medical Sciences taken in its broadest spectrum and especially, at organizing the Congresses for the history of medicine”.

National sections were formed by the affiliated members of various countries, who were invited to establish their own societies and to present candidates for membership of the permanent Committee. The Bureau reserved for itself the right to present the most qualified candidates to the general Assembly.

Once elected, the delegates, on the one hand, participated in the management of the society, on the other, they had to inform the governing body - the permanent Committee – about all the activities of their national groups while also supervising, in their respective countries, the fulfilment of decisions taken by the general Assembly. They were constantly charged with promoting, by all means possible, the organization of the teaching of medical history in their respective countries.

The Society's primary task would consist of organizing the international Congresses for the history of medicine, every two years. The permanent Committee always elaborated and controlled the program, even though the practical organization of the Congress was often entrusted to national or local committees. The publication of the papers given at the Congress could only be done in close association with the bureau of the Society.

Now, it will be appropriate for me, to run the film of the 21 Congresses that have taken place so far and to remind you of the themes that formed the subjects of the principal communications and discussions.

The first Congress was held in Antwerp (7-12 August, 1920), under the presidency of Doctor TRICOT-ROYER, while Doctor VAN SCHEVENSTEEN was the secretary general. In a way, it was a victory Congress for only delegates from the victorious nations of World War One were present. This remained the case in the next few congresses. Nevertheless, it was an outstanding success, so much so that the second Congress was held in Paris a few months later (1-6 July, 1921), under the co-presidency of Professors JEANSELME and MENETRIER, while Professors LAIGNEL-LAVASTINE and FOSSEYEU were the active secretary-generals. The principal

topics named in the program of this Congress were : ancient medicine, Byzantine medicine, the identification of great epidemics in history and the role of pharmacists in the development of biology.

The third Congress was held in London, from the 17 to 22 July 1923, with SINGER as president. Three themes were on the program : the history of anatomy, the history of great epidemics and the history of the Renaissance, at the beginning of the sixteenth century.

At Brussels, in April 1923, the Congress of the International Society was in session, as third sub-section of section IX of the fifth international Congress of the History of Science, under the presidency of Doctor TRICOT-ROYER, with Professor LAIGNEL-LAVASTINE, as secretary-general. Greco-roman medicine was the main feature.

It was at Geneva, besides the lake, that the members reunited for the fifth time at a Congress, from 20 to 25 July 1925, under the presidency of Doctor Charles GREEN-CUMSTON, with Doctors DE PEYER and Emile THOMAS, as co-secretary generals. The main theme was medicine in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

In 1927, the sixth Congress was at Leyden, in the Netherlands, from 18 to 23 July. It was presided over by Doctor DE LINT, assisted by Doctors KROM and VAN GILS, as secretaries. The school of Leyden, Descartes, Leeuwenhoek and the great Boerhaave were the foci of discussion.

The seventh Congress took place further North, in Oslo, in 1928, as a sub-section of section XI of the fifth international Congress for the History of Science, from 14 to 18 August 1928. Professor HALDVAN KOHT was president. The program was varied but pre-history, medical teaching in the Middle Ages and the social life of lepers, were the subjects of important papers.

The next Congresses were held in the South of Europe. A still quite hot sun welcomed the members, from 22 to 27 September 1930, in Rome, where the eighth international Congress was held under the presidency of professor CAPPARONI, assisted by Doctors ROCCHI and G. CAPPARONI, as secretaries of the Congress. Etruscan medicine, Roman medicine and that of the Middle Ages, plus medical relations between Italy and other European countries, were dealt with, in depth.

In this very city of Bucharest, where we meet today, was held the ninth international Congress, from 10 to 18 September 1932. The president was Professor GOMOIU and the secretary was Mrs Viorica GOMIOU. Mrs GOMIOU is here today and, I would like to pay her my respects. That Congress was especially brilliant and successful thanks to the efforts of its organizers. It dealt particularly with the revolution in medicine in Balkan countries and the protection of Europe against the plague.

With the tenth Congress, in 1935, we returned to the West, to Madrid, in the Iberian Peninsula, from 23 to 29 September, where Professor MARANON greeted the participants to this Congress. With the change of scenery, came a change of program. Holding centre stage were the following : Arabic medicine, medicine in the Americas during the discovery and during colonization and also, medical folklore.

The eleventh Congress was the last before the Second World War. We returned to the Balkans in September 1938 to attend the Congress of Zagreb, Beograd, Sarajevo and Dubrovnik. Doctor Lujo THALLER presided, assisted by Doctor Vladimir BAZALA, as secretary general. The Congress was mainly devoted to medicine in popular literature, to malaria and to medical folklore.

The Second World War and subsequent events were to prevent the international Society from reassuming its normal activities.

Many of our oldest members died, others had disappeared and, quite a few, could no longer travel. A few watched so that the flickering flame did not blow out.

For more than ten years, it was impossible to organize an international congress.

It was in 1950 that the international Society, back in the saddle, organized its twelfth Congress as a section of the fifth international Congress of the History of Science. This was in Amsterdam, under the co-presidency of Doctors LAIGNEL-LAVASTINE of Paris and SCHLICHTING of Amsterdam, assisted by Doctor SONDERVORST of Leuven, as secretary. On the agenda were : precursors, medical relations between West and East and medical folklore. Once again, important papers were dedicated to Arabic medicine.

I will pause here for a moment to stress that this was the last time that the international Society for the history of medicine and the international Society for the history of science held their congresses at a common site. Yet, the formula was excellent in principle.

It allowed medical historians better to understand certain methods and techniques indispensable for scientific research, since they were able closely to observe their use by assisting meetings of adjoining sections. Furthermore, due to the presence of physicians, it allowed specialists to answer problems with medical features and provided solutions to problems that could not be completely resolved without medical knowledge. From this viewpoint, the formula of mixed congresses was certainly fruitful.

In practice, the experience proved rather disappointing. In the confined space provided by one section or even, a sub-section, of a Congress that had attracted numerous participants, the international Society found itself constrained. Too much so in effect to realize the goals, it had set itself in organizing international congresses. To these difficulties were also added financial problems for the Society did not enjoy an independent budget to organize these mixed congresses. Finally, the publication of the presentations from our congresses on the history of medicine was a further source of difficulty, for the central committee of the Congresses on the history of Science, almost automatically, ignored all the medical papers that did not have a biological content. This, certainly, did not suit a large number of our medical historians.

The subsequent congresses were, therefore, organized quite independently on the history of our discipline. This did not prevent our members from attending international congresses for the history of Science, on a personal basis or, our Society from opening its doors to historians of related sciences, as long as they wished to be concerned with research problems in the history of medicine or biology.

The thirteenth Congress was held in Nice, Cannes and Monaco, from 7 to 15 September 1952, under the presidency of professor LAIGNEL-LAVASTINE (replacing Professor GUIART who was kept away by illness), assisted by Doctor F.A. SONDERVORST, as secretary general. The subjects examined at this congress were derived from the following headings : precursors-medical relation between East and West _ from empiricism to experimental medicine in the Mediterranean basin _ the influence of the schools of Salerno and Montpellier – medical iconography and achievements in various countries favourable to medical education.

In 1954, Rome was again chosen together with Salerno to receive the participants of the fourteenth international Congress for the

history of medicine, to take place from 13 to 20 September 1954, under the presidency of professor PAZZINI with Doctor GALEAZZI, as secretary general. The following subjects were discussed : medicine as human bridge between peoples – what medicine has contributed to the progress of civilization – the school of Salerno and the pre-university era.

In turn, Madrid was again chosen to host the fifteenth international Congress for the history of medicine. Professor LAIN ENTRALGO was president while Doctor PALAFOX was secretary general. The principal themes of the Congress were : the Iberian Peninsula and Arabic medicine – medical relations between the Iberian Peninsula and the rest of Europe – medical iconography in the sixteenth century.

Montpellier received the members of the sixteenth Congress in 1958, from 22 to 28 September, with Professor TURCHINI as president and, Doctor DULIEU, as secretary general. The themes dealt with were : relations of the school of Montpellier with medical institutions of diverse nations over the centuries – the history of the development of hospitals – medical iconography in the seventeenth century – the contribution of the New World to therapeutics.

For the seventeenth Congress, we remained in the Mediterranean basin, returning to the birthplace of western medicine. The Congress took place at Athens and at Cos, with tours to the Aegean islands and to Crete. It was presided over by Professor OECONOMOS, assisted by Professor MALAMOS, as secretary. It is unnecessary to state that most of the papers concentrated on Hippocratic medicine, although some investigated medicine at the school of Alexandria and in the Byzantine world.

In 1962, the year of the eighteenth Congress, it was Poland that welcomed our members, first at Warsaw, then at Krakow, under the presidency of Professor KONOPKA (17 – 24 September 1962). On the program, were : medicine and humanism in past centuries relations between Polish and foreign medicine over the centuries – physicians known as artists and writers.

The nineteenth Congress took place at Basle (from 7 to 11 September 1964), under the presidency of Professor BUESS, assisted by Professor BLASER, as secretary. In 1964, the fourth centenary of the death of Vesalius was celebrated. The work of the great anatomist was the focus of many papers. The others were largely devoted to ancient medicine, medieval medicine, the histories of therapeutics and of psychiatry, as well as the Swiss contribution to the growth of medicine.

The Congress, that would have been held in Berlin, in 1940, had there been no war, was held in West Berlin, from 22 to 27 August 1966. It was the twentieth. Doctor GOERKE was president, assisted by Doctor MÜLLER DIETZ, as secretary general. Among the subjects, on the program were : medical relations between Germany and other countries of the world – the history of pathological anatomy in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries – the development of teaching and research in the context of the history of medicine – medicine and art – the histories of dentistry and of veterinary medicine.

Here, at last, is the twenty-first Congress, our last one, which took place in Italy, at Sienna, under the presidency of Professor PAZZINI, assisted by Doctor STROPIPIANA, as secretary. On the program were : the contribution of Tuscan medicine to the history of medieval medicine – medicine and art in the Middle Ages – Italian medical relations with other countries – the evolution of medicine during the last century – the evolution of dentistry.

I apologize for this somewhat tedious recital but, you may have noticed, from the variety of subjects dealt with, that almost all aspects of medical history were included.

Thus, using the presentations made at our congresses, one could already produce a substantial treatise on the history of medicine. We could also indicate the real utility of these congresses organized by the international Society by another more tangible finding, often repeated. It is as follows : everywhere, in all the countries, cities and intellectual centres where our Congresses took place, a new impetus, favourable to the history of medicine or to its teaching, often evolved. I have repeated proof of the above. Here is an example : following the first and fourth Congresses organized in my own country, many societies for the history of medicine, were formed and medical history chairs were created at Leuven and at Gand. A determining role in this outcome was played by the congenial memories left and, the interest aroused, by these congresses.

If our Congresses had merely contributed to obtaining results like the above, would this not be sufficient to justify their organization and to encourage the international Society to persevere on its chosen course ?

Apart from a few exceptions, all the works of our successive Congresses were published. The permanent Committee or the organizing Committee were the ones to ensure the task was fulfilled.

Excepted from this rule, were the works of the Congresses held in conjunction with the international Society of the history of Science. A restricted number of papers, relating to medical history, may be found in the common annals devoted to the works of these Congresses.

Also, to be exempted, are the annals of the twelfth congress of Zagreb, Belgrade, Sarajevo and Dubrovnik where the outbreak of the Second World War prevented publication.

The final exceptions are the 2nd part of the Annals of the Congress of Montpellier (the twenty second) and those of the Congress of Warsaw (the sixteenth), which were not published for lack of funding. Even so, certain of the papers were published independently, as was notably the case with the Romanian ones. Our Romanian colleagues have always pleasantly surprised us, at the very beginning of the Congresses, by bringing complete copies of the papers they expected to give. This is an example that should be followed by all.

The international Society for the history of medicine was also responsible for other publications.

For a long time, our Society published informative circulars and reports of its meetings and congresses in the French journal *Aesculape* edited by AVALON. In general, this journal served to publish our members' works.

In 1936, Doctor GOMOIU, then president of the international Society for the history of medicine, thought that the time was ripe, for our society, to have its own journal, so as to enable the members "to obtain more widespread information on the inside activities of the Society faster".

From then on, Doctor GOMOIU began to publish the *Archives internationales d'histoire de la médecine*.

These archives, now almost impossible to find, are very precious for today : they give us further information about the activities of the international Society, during the years preceding the Second World War.

They include the statutes and regulations of the Society, substantial reports on the meetings of the permanent Committee and a list of the papers given at the first eight congresses, apart from

the seventh one. In addition, these archives contain important bio-bibliographical articles, pertaining to the older leaders of our Society. Today, these are important works of reference, relating to TRICOT-ROYER, GIORDANO, JEANSELME, GOMIOU, DE LINT, VON GYORY, SUDHOFF, SINGER, NEWBURGER, CAPPARONI, BOULANGER-DAUSSE, FERNANDEZ DE ALCÁDE and VALLÉE.

This is important documentation, entirely in the handwriting of our late lamented president, which will remain living testimony of his devotion to our Society.

From 1954 until 1962, Doctor WICKERSHEIMER entrusted me with editing a new journal, *Le Bulletin et Mémoires de la Société internationale d'histoire de la médecine*. The publication of this revue was made possible by the intervention of a generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous and, by the financial support that the Belgian journal of medical sciences, *Le Scalpel*, was to bring him.

The revue ceased publication, in 1962 and was replaced by the periodical mailing of circulars.

In 1969, Professor PAZZINI places at the disposal of our Society a substantial number of pages of the revue *Pagine di Storia della Medicina*, which he edits with so much talent. Thanks to this generous support from our honorary President, the international Society for the history of medicine, once again, has the use of an excellent instrument of information to enlighten its members as to the activities of the Society.

It would be inexcusable, given the opportunity of this lecture, not to pay special tribute to all our presidents: TRICOT-ROYER, GIORDANO, GOMIOU, LAIGNEL-LAVASTINE, PAZZINI and BARIETY, for the remarkable manner in which they presided or still, preside over the destiny of our Society. I will also remind you of the role played by the secretary-generals, who held and still, hold the responsibility of checking the correct function of all the wheels of the Society and of executing decisions once made.

Already, at the beginning of this presentation, I have paid tribute to the indispensable role played by Professor TRICOT-ROYER, our honorary President and founder, in the restoration and development of our Society. He was to remain, until the years just after the Second World War, the elite pioneer whose authority was never challenged. His arrival imposed respect while his words induced silence. He really was the father of our Society.

After the seventh Congress in Rome, Davide GIORDANO, of Venice, succeeded TRICOT-ROYER, as president.

GIORDANO who was a surgeon and, a talented one, nevertheless dedicated a large part of his spare time to the study of medical history and the history of science. A man of great presence, he also had a firm hand that he used wisely. From 1930 to 1935, the Society benefited from the support of his strong personality. The older members will remember the charming hospitality he provided his guests in his beautiful Venetian palace.

GIORDANO's successor as president, from 1936 until 1946, was Doctor Victor GOMOIU. Like his predecessor, he was an ace with the knife but he also made an important contribution to the history of medicine. I presented him to you just now, as the brilliant organizer of the ninth international Congress for the history of medicine, at Bucharest. I reminded you of the all-important part he would play in creating and publishing the Archives of the Society. As President, he was extraordinarily stimulating. Tall, elegant, gentle, outspoken and lively in speech, he was most cordial in his dealings. All had great respect for him and, this was deserved, for it was, under his presidency, that our Society experienced its finest progress.

After the war, when difficulties in travel prevented GOMOIU from carrying out his mandate, the survivors of the old Society, those that were still alive and on the spot, invited LAIGNEL-LAVASTINE, another of the great original pioneers, to rebuild our ruined Society – there was not much left of it – and enable it to resume a normal course of activities.

The task was difficult, even extremely so. A large part of the archives had disappeared during the troubles, many older members were dead and others had not been heard of. Among the living, many could not travel and even, for those that could, getting around was difficult. Finally, from the financial viewpoint, there was not much ready cash left.

Where many others would have failed, LAIGNEL-LAVASTINE was to succeed because he believed in himself.

From his personality, emanated a double radiation, one that stimulated action and another that inspired confidence. He also knew how to infect others with this confidence. Without needing to be bossy, he always obtained obedience and, when the road ahead was strewn with obstacles, these seemed to disappear as he ad-

vanced. LAIGNEL-LAVASTINE, thus, had all the great qualities of a chief.

He also possessed those of a person who can preside over a congress. When chairing a session, he followed the discussions with sustained attention, while still able mentally to prepare the next day's program.

When discussion languished, he could find the right word or ask a question fitted to revive interest. After the sessions or, if it rained, he knew what to say to restore good spirits. When it was fine, he knew how to inspire others with the beauty of a landscape or, in town, with the splendour of a monument or the value of a sculpture. He pointed out what needed to be seen, while ignoring the rest, for he hated both, mediocrity and excess.

In this context, allow me to tell you an amusing memory. One day, at the Nice Congress, as we exited from a session, a small group of us accompanied the president. Seeing the name of a great Italian painter on a poster, he described one of the great works of this Master with such precision that soon, while still walking, we were visualizing this painting as it really was. This was so true that, finding myself in a museum in Florence, three years later, still without recalling this incident that I had long forgotten, I immediately identified a portrait that I had never seen before as being the one so beautifully described by LAIGNEL. Yes, indeed it was.

Permit me again to recall that this great scholar possessed extraordinary erudition and feeling for art. We all thought of this when he gave his unforgettable lectures, quite unprepared, at the congressional sessions and also, his charming toasts at our banquets. He was really an ambassador extraordinary for French kindness sent in our midst. Thus, his death, in 1953, left a big void in our Society!

LAIGNEL-LAVASTINE was succeeded by Dr. Ernest WICKERSHEIMER. This tall Alsatian will be remembered in history, I am certain, as one of the great French medical historians, if not the greatest, of the first half of this twentieth century. After having accomplished considerable work in science, WICKERSHEIMER, already of advanced age, had the kindness to accept, almost offhandedly, a difficult succession. He was to watch over the destiny of our Society for more than ten years and did so with extraordinary devotion.

He had only accepted these duties as a service to science, with the profound desire of seeing medical historians adopt methods of work conforming more closely with the norms of historical and scientific research. Having for a long time worked with him as secretary general, today, I still wonder what was the most admirable characteristic of this elite researcher. Was it the extreme simplicity of his manner, the straightness of his character or, his thoughtful enthusiasm for truly scientific work ?

The sixth President of our Society marks the end of history and entry into modern times.

Professor PAZZINI was to succeed Doctor WICKERSHEIMER, in 1964. This was to be a rather difficult succession since it occurred at the time when the Society underwent quite radical internal changes. Professor PAZZINI fulfilled his mission to everyone's satisfaction for he transposed on to the international scene methods of work which had served him so well at the renowned centre for research in medical history to which he has dedicated the best years of his life. Professor PAZZINI is, today, our honorary President. We are convinced that his fidelity to our Society and, the advice he continues to give us, form an ever-precious patronage for the Society.

Finally, together we shall greet our current President, Professor Maurice BARIETY and assure him of our profound gratitude for his guidance of our Society while inspiring himself with the example of his illustrious predecessors. (Professor BARIETY would die, prematurely, in 1971).

The first secretary general was Professor LAIGNEL-LAVASTINE. I no longer need to introduce him to you. To all the qualities that that I recognized in him as President, he had another in addition, in 1920, that of youth. This is to tell you that, when our Society was beginning its organization, no one was more fitted than him to carry out these functions. His activity was overwhelming, and we owe him the publication of the second, fourth and eighth international congresses for the history of medicine.

Professor GUIART of Lyon succeeded LAIGNEL-LAVASTINE, as secretary general, from 1936 to 1948. His punctuality was legendary and his devotion was total. I believe that all the Romanian medical historians present will recall with feeling the name and the memory of this great professor from Lyon. Beginning in 1920, he was to teach medical history for many years at Cluj, where he founded an important research centre and where he taught series of young investigators, among whom some were very dear to him.

While recalling the personality of this great master, it is impossible not also to recall the special association between teacher and student. By this, I mean to refer to Professor BOLOGA who was the favourite pupil of Professor GUIART. Later, he became a teacher and department chairman. We know all the services he performed for his country, first by his researches ; then, by the way he taught the young and, finally, by the uncontested authority with which he carefully prepared the studies that Romanian delegates have not ceased to present to our congresses.

Professor BOLOGA is today one of the oldest members of our Society, if not the oldest. (Professor BOLOGA died in 1971) . I have always admired the highly scientific tone he has tried to ensure for the work of our Congress. Today, he holds the reins of this Congress. They are in good hands. Allow me to pay him an admiring and friendly tribute.

I myself was to succeed Doctor GUIART, as secretary general for 16 years, from 1948 until 1964. I will say nothing about myself. I know of no merit of mine except that, for 16 years, I watched that the Society never deviated from the goals the founders had set when it was created. I have only had one aim, to serve the Society. I have used all means to ensure the greatest cordiality between all the members of our Society.

Today, it is Doctor Louis DULIEU, one of the brilliant French historians of the young generation, who is our secretary general. I hope to be the mouthpiece of everyone in wishing him many long years ahead in which to fulfil his duties with his well-known skill, that is only equalled by his modesty.

Now, is the time to remember the precious collaboration brought by all the other members of the bureau and of the permanent committee, also the presidents, secretaries and committee members of our various Congresses.

I cannot mention everyone but, I must remind you, of the enormous contribution to the smooth functioning of the Society by, among the older members, Doctors JEANSELME, MENETRIER, NEUVEU, DELAUNAY, FOSSEYEU, TURCHINI, GIRAUD, VAN SCHEVENSTEEN, VERHOEVEN, SINGER, ROLLESTON, CASTIGLIONI, CAPPARONI, BELLONI, KRUMBHAAR, FULTON, SUDHOFF, DIEPGEN, ARTELT, GHELERTER, DE LINT, CUMSTON, JORGE, DE ALCADE, BAZALA, HERCZEG, SZUMOWSKI, KONOPKA, MAAR, HULT, NEUBURGER, SUHEYLUNVER, SIMON, FINOT AND PECKER.

I must also pay my respects to all you, ordinary members of our Society who, without having joined any committee or commission yet, by your faithful attendance of our reunions, by the papers you present and by the confidence you have in your leaders, form the basis and the cement most essential to the society and the real reason for its existence. The international Society extends its gratitude to you all.

In 1964, our society underwent quite profound modifications.

It is certain that our directives, which had not changed for more than forty years, were no longer entirely suitable to modern requirements.

Any society that remains entirely static is bound to disappear.

An increased number of physicians as members, especially from the Anglo-Saxon countries, from Asia and from the Third-world, also required expansion at the level of management, so as to ensure more adequate, more judicious and more regional representation of all the members belonging to our Society.

This society remains one of individual members. At the same time, through modifications of the statutes, the Society was to ensure contacts and better collaboration with the constituted national societies.

It was under the presidency of Professor PAZZINI that these modifications took place. Without departing from the aims of the founders of the Society, these changes ensure a more harmonious operation and better fulfil the requirements of the young generations of medical historians.

I should recall many other activities of the international Society but the time allowed is insufficient. May I, nevertheless, stress that, on numerous occasions, the Society has demonstrated the importance given to related meetings ? Whenever possible, one or more members of the Society have been sent as delegates to these reunions.

Among these, I should indicate the representation of the Society at the fourth Congress of the Latin medical press, at the celebration of Avicenna's millennium in Istanbul, at the Vesalius celebration in Padua, at the erection of a monument to Vesalius on the island of Zante, at the first European Congress for the history of medicine at Montecatino, at the anniversary of the Romanian Society for the history of medicine, at numerous international Congresses for the history of science, at the Pan-American Congress-

ses for the history of medicine, at Rio de Janeiro, Caracas and at Guatemala, at the Catalan national and international Congresses for the history of medicine, etc.

Now that this retrospective view of the activities of our Society is ending, we can rejoice in noting that the balance sheet is very positive.

Hundreds and thousands of papers and communications were presented at the successive sessions of our congresses. Many of these presentations were of real scientific interest and will continue to be useful to future generations of medical historians.

Successive Congresses have had the not trifling merit of stimulating an interest for historical research in many countries. Numerous national societies have been launched thanks to the initiative of our members and our congresses have witnessed efforts undertaken to promote the teaching of medical history in our faculties and universities.

Nevertheless, our Society's work is not yet finished and today, we must face the future, especially with respect to the younger generations and youthful researchers who, one day, must take over.

Let us take an interest in the young, especially, in the researchers and in those who sincerely desire to devote part of their lives and leisure to research in medical history.

The situation for young research workers has not always been favourable. In addition to lack of material and financial support, many scientific societies often refuse to admit them, no doubt estimating that they have not yet completely won their spurs.

I think our Society must, as in the past, continue to pursue a liberal policy, ensure a good hearing for all those who are interested in the history of medicine and allow them to attend the workings of the Congresses. It must assist them materially and financially in, so far as possible, allow them to stand up and make their first presentations, while watching, observing, and correcting them. It must offer them the example of our own work and so, initiate them in the methods and techniques which lead to truly scientific research.

Therefore, we must, through our work, our assistance and our support, continue to excite, promote and develop a liking for historical research.

I believe that this work is also useful, perhaps even more useful for the development of the history of medicine than that performed by specialists during private meetings which, although doubtless very interesting, can alas receive few echoes from outside.

Let me relate a personal reminiscence of 43 years ago, when I was not yet qualified as a physician. As I was greatly interested in the life of VAN HELMONT, I shyly asked my advisor, TRICOT-ROYER if I could present a paper, at the tenth international congress which was to take place in Oslo. My advisor, after considering me for a long time, ended up by agreeing.

I admit not being sure of myself when time came to give this paper. I was uncertain, ready to blush and to flee at the squeak of a mouse.

When the presentation was over, my advisor approached and said : "It is not bad". LAIGNEL-LAVASTINE, who was with him, added : "It is actually very good, young man, continue and you will make the grade."

How beneficial this support and these soothing words were to be ! Since then, I have made progress, devoting 43 years to the history of medicine and more than twenty to its teaching !

Let us continue supporting the young, as our elders have given us the example. We should also assist those who, without being professionals or wishing to become so, are interested in history, in order better to appreciate the value of their profession and all its dignity. We should not forget these words written by SINGER : "In England, the most eminent interpreters of medical history are men who have dedicated to this study all the leisure they could grab during the exercise of their profession. The fact that England could produce such men and, many others of similar value, proves that first class historical papers can be written during the spare time available in a full time career".

Doubtless, we should avoid fancy amateurism but, all those sincerely involved in medical history deserve to be encouraged, guided, and helped better to understand the true methods of scientific research.

Let us continue striving so that the beneficial and educational value of medical history finally finds a place in all university programs and the study of medical history enjoys all the advantages that many of you would like to see conferred on it.

As you can see, our task is not ended. The road ahead remains long and arduous.

Our Society has already received some accolades. Let us act together in order that it may receive more in the future.

If we remain faithful to the aims of all who have preceded us, I trust in the destiny of our international Society and in its beneficial activity for the future of medical history and its blossoming.

Part 2 : 1970 – 1982

We continue with this retrospective study of the history of the INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE, while the twenty second *International Congress for the History of Medicine* is being held in Bucharest, in the native land of Victor GOMOIU of whom we have just been speaking. A talented medical historian of the early twentieth century, before the Second World War, he was ceaseless in investing our Society with the benefits of his enthusiastic activity. He was the brilliant organizer of the eleventh *International Congress*, which took place in this same city of Bucharest, in 1932. We therefore grasp this new opportunity of paying tribute to him and to his work. Mrs Viorica GOMOIU, our oldest member, since then has collected his writings, his collections and his personal souvenirs to donate them to the Romanian nation. They are now to be found in the "Dr. V. GOMOIU Museum" ,at Craiova which, besides, was created through his initiative and is, today, much appreciated by the public.

It was Valeriu BOLOGA who, emerging as one of the best historians in his country towards the middle of the century, presided over the twenty second Congress at Bucharest-Constanza, from 31 August until 5 September 1970, while Professor BARIETY, of Paris, brought him the compliments and the support of our Society.

Valeriu-Lucien BOLOGA was born on 26 November 1892, at Brasov (Kronstadt), on the northern slope of the Transylvanian Alps. At that time, this city was part of the Austria-Hungarian empire.

He received his medical training at Iena and at Innsbruck. As historian, he studied at the Mayer-Steineg School and, more especially, at the Jules GUIART School. GUIART was the first chairman of the department of medical history at Cluj (Kolozsvar), capital of Transylvania and situated on the Somesh. It was the homeland of Mathias Corvin and had just become part of Romania.

In 1930, he succeeded GUIART to whom he owed so much and was eternally grateful. It was, in 1952, that I met BOLOGA, at Lyon and watched him climb the Croix-Rousse to reach the top and pay his last respects to his old advisor

BOLOGA authored several hundred papers pertaining to the history of medicine in South West Europe but, especially, to that of Romania and, specifically, to the contributions of physicians from Transylvania and from Banat. A cautious, serious and honest scientist, he also wrote in a beautiful style. *The History of Transylvanian Medicine* (1927), *The History of the Origins of Romanian Scientific*

Medicine (1930) and his *Universal History of Medicine (1970)* are among his most remarkable works. A few months before his death, in 1971, this historian who was the founder of a school and an excellent teacher, was to advise his students to continue his work : "Dig even more deeply the trench I have just opened", he told them.

However, at the Bucharest congress, we saw BOLOGA, still full of activity, stimulating discussion on the main topics in the program :

I. The history of medical ethics.

II. The scientific value of medical folklore.

III. Medical relations between Romania and the nations of the world throughout the ages.

IV. Medicine in the provinces of the Romanian empire.

Not one of the least attractions of this Congress was the stay in Constanza, renowned city where Ovid spent the last days of his life. The suburbs of this city allow the visitor to realize how the Hellenic and Roman civilizations helped to forge a Romanian nation which, later, would become the meeting point of numerous civilizations that became blended with each leaving enduring traces of their passage. BOLOGA himself would illustrate this point at the closing session of the Congress when he spoke to nearly all the delegates, in their own language.

A few months before the Bucharest Congress, the Society lost, on 7 April 1970, one of its most distinguished members : Donald O'MALLEY (1907-1970), professor and promoter of the history of medicine at the University of California, at Los Angeles.

Previously, he was at Stanford University where he studied languages with professor Frankel, with special emphasis on Greek and Latin. He also acquired a vast knowledge of anatomy from Professor Saunders who taught this speciality and with whom he collaborated until 1953. O'MALLEY also became the great specialist on Renaissance medicine and the author of many studies on Andreas Vesalius, becoming his noted bio-biographer. His *Andreas Vesalius of Brussels*, dedicated to his wife, Frances Keddie, a talented dermatologist, remains an extraordinary source of documentation for all who undertake Vesalian studies.

In this same year of 1970, we learned of the death of another eminent member and regular attendant of all our Congresses :

Ralph MAJOR (1884-1970). He studied medicine in Germany and was later named Professor of Pathology, at the University of Kansas. He had a very lengthy professional career and his profound knowledge of history served in his election as president of the *American Society for the History of Medicine*.

A great admirer of Greek antiquity, MAJOR was also familiar with its monuments. His *Classic Description of Diseases* (1927, 1932), a selective anthology of the best medical writings of all times and all nations, is a book all physicians would like to own and to reread. As to his *History of Medicine* (1954), in two easy to handle and well illustrated volumes, it is a didactic work of great scholarship that must be of interest to anyone wishing to become initiated in the history of medicine. Furthermore, it is rich in biographical information. An uncomplicated person, Ralph MAJOR was very discrete but always ready to be of service.

On 9 June 1971, we learned of the unexpected death of our then current President : Maurice BARIETY (1897-1971) who was preparing to chair, a few months later, at the London Congress, an important symposium dedicated to the history of clinical medicine. This brilliant Parisian professor was taken from us while he still held the promise of great accomplishments. He was born in 1897, at Illiers in the Beauce, also known as "Combay" for having provided the setting for many of Marcel Proust's novels. He studied at the Lycée, at Chartres where his poetic mind could satiate itself with the view of the renowned cathedral and its unique spire. His career was prodigious. Upon qualifying as a doctor, he managed the unit for respiratory diseases at the Hôtel-Dieu in Paris, following in the footsteps of Récamier, Chomel, Trousseau, Grissolle, Sée, Dieulafoy and Gilbert. From 1947 until 1950, he occupied the chair of medical history, made famous by his predecessors Charles Daremberg, Pierre Ménétrier, and Maxime Laignel-Lavastine whose favourite pupil he became. From 1950 to 1956, he was chairman of pathology and, from 1956 to 1968, chairman of internal medicine, while his unit, at the Hotel-Dieu, remained almost his second home. Among his almost 750 publications, about fifty dealt with various subjects in the history of medicine from Antiquity to the present and, in addition, there were his medico-literary or medico-artistic publications. His *History of Medicine*, written in collaboration with Coury, will remain an enduring memorial. A few months before his death, a final book established his authority on the subject in the form of a synthesis of the history of medicine.

This great leader of French medicine was a born organizer ; he had a strong, clear and vibrant voice that, during reunions and con-

gresses, could be heard in the uppermost seats of any amphitheatre. He was also unusually eloquent and an accomplished artist at making presentations. His pupil and collaborator, COURY, has best summed up his work in these words : "In the forest of ideas, he could wisely destroy the dense bushes of confusion and the tufts of detail, so as to leave pruned trunks and clusters of tall trees, the only intellectual images worthy of being retained in memory".

In the dawn of 1972, on January 30, Richard Harrison SHRYOCK (1893-1972) died at Fort Lauderdale, in Florida. He was an important contributor to the modernisation of twentieth century medical historiography. After studying philosophy, modern languages, pedagogy and physiology, he received, during World War I, hands on instruction in various aspects of practical medicine which was not wasted during the rest of his career. He then went to the university of Pennsylvania and was attracted to the study of history and of health problems. Later, he studied at the University of Ohio and there, received his doctoral degree to become, soon after, instructor at the University of Pennsylvania. His book *The Development of Modern Medicine* (1936) attracted a good deal of attention. He introduced a new way of dealing with the subject by explaining medical progress in a setting of progress in the basic sciences and of the great social currents that confounded the world, at that time. Soon, he joined Sigerist in this field. In 1938, he became professor of medical history at the university where he worked and his book, *Medicine and Society in America : 1660-1860*, was a partial synthesis of his investigations in this area. At 65 years of age, he returned to Philadelphia to become librarian of the Society he himself had founded. His last book, *The Medical Reputation of Benjamin Rush*, would close the cycle of his publications. SHRYOCK 's final presence was at our twenty-first Congress, at Sienna where he developed the history of the idea of "Specificity" in American medicine.

This colleague, who expressed his ideas clearly and firmly, was certainly not conceited for having corrected many of his predecessors' concepts, he declared somewhat humorously that he thought his own concepts would, doubtless, be corrected when the evolution of medical knowledge and of the world made this necessary.

It was Dr. Noël POYNTER who was asked to succeed professor BARIETY and presided over the twenty-third international Congress which took place in London, from 2 until 9 September 1972. It was

composed of 7 sections and a symposium dedicated to *Concepts of Clinical Medicine*. The papers dealt with the following subjects :

1. *The history of clinical medicine.*
2. *The history of preventive medicine and of health.*
3. *The history of societies and of medical specialization.*
4. *The relations between British medicine and that of other nations.*
5. *Medicine and humanism.*
6. *The history of dentistry.*
7. *Other medical themes.*

Our Society which, in 1972, had 629 members, witnessed more than 500 historians participating at this high-powered London Congress that was organized to perfection. It took place at the *Wellcome Institute* itself, so the congress members could admire the institute and the renowned library dedicated to the history of our art. Furthermore, the participants could make contact with, or visit : *The Royal Society of Medicine, The Royal College of Physicians, The Royal College of Surgeons, The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, The Royal College of General Practitioners, The Society of Apothecaries, the Osler Club* or even, go and immerse themselves in the mediaeval and humanistic atmosphere of the old colleges, at Oxford and Cambridge.

This Congress was organized in a masterly fashion by Dr. Noël POYNTER whose prodigious career will be evoked later.

The London Congress had hardly ended when we were stunned by the news, on 23 August 1973, of the death of one of our then current vice-presidents : Charles COURY (1916-1973).

Charles COURY who had studied the arts in his youth, soon became interested in the history of medicine with Professor BARIETY, as mentor. With the latter, he published the history of tuberculosis in ancient China in the *Semaine des Hôpitaux*. For him, this was a powerful stimulus and he became interested in the most varied subjects in the history of medicine. When, in 1966, he in turn became chair of the history of medicine, he endowed it with a novel lustre.

Among his historical writings were : *Grandeur et déclin d'une maladie : La tuberculose au cours des âges ; L'histoire des facultés de médecine de France ; L'histoire de l'enseignement médical ; nu-*

merous studies of Alpino ; *L'histoire de la médecine précolombienne* and, above all, his *Histoire de la médecine universelle*, written in conjunction with BARIETY. In Paris, he had succeeded his mentor at the Hôtel Dieu and he seemed destined for a bright future.

This brilliant scholar who, in his writings, always found the ideal word clearly to express his thinking, had stated to his students at an inaugural lesson : "Medicine is a form of religion to which you soon become servile but to which you cannot fully become attached with your heart and soul, unless you know its origins and its evolution. Its objective is purely human and its origins do not intrude upon those that belong to God but, just like a religion, it depends on theological virtues reduced to their earthly motives. It involves charity which is love of one's neighbour for himself and often to his disfavour. It involves faith which has obliged us to undertake long and strenuous studies. When doubt creeps in, follow me in a pilgrimage to the sources. I will try to be nearby to interpret the edifying and interminable lesson that the past teaches us". It was by reminding us of these words that André PECKER concluded his obituary speech, dedicated to our defunct colleague whose memory we recall once again.

During the year 1973, while the Committee prepared the Bucharest Congress, the international Society lost two more eminent colleagues : Jean STEUDEL and Gunnar SOININEN.

For many years, Johann STEUDEL (1901-1973) represented the German medical historians on the management Committee.

He was born in Ronneburg in Thuringe, then lived in Leipzig where his father, a merchant, had resettled.

STEUDEL came to medicine by a devious route for he had originally studied archaeology, the history of art, philosophy and languages, at Koenigsburg. He was then to carry out biographical studies for the largest bookshops, in Leipzig. It was in this city that, seven years later, he entered the Karl-Sudhoff Institute for the History of Medicine, at that time, headed by Walter von Brunn. After having studied medicine at Leipzig, then at Fribourg, in 1942-1943, he was given a teaching appointment at Bonn that did not necessitate rupture of contact with Leipzig. After the war, he became professor of medicine, gaining tenure in 1957. The Institute for the History of Medicine at Bonn was a model establishment and dispo-

sed of advanced technological equipment for the collection and reproduction of bio-bibliographical information. STEUDEL was the editor of the "*Sudhoff Archiv*", a highly regarded journal whose publication, until late in the war, was ensured by his advisor Walter von Brunn and by Rudhoph Zaunick. At the same time, he was profoundly interested in the *Académie Léopoldine*, becoming an active member, in 1952. He dedicated several papers to Leibnitz and his relations with medicine (1960).

His linguistic training led him quite naturally to interest himself in the history of medical terminology. Thus, *Der vor-vesalische Beitrag der Anatomischen Nomenklatur* was published in 1943. Under his management, his students, especially Gernot Rath, studied ancient anatomy and the anatomical names used in Gerald of Cremona's translation of the *Canon*. Then, Vesalius' anatomical nomenclature was, in turn, carefully analyzed.

He was a great teacher and many of his students in whom he knew how to inculcate a love for history and its teaching, today, have chairs in the history of medicine in western Germany.

A devoted member of our Congresses, STEUDEL also liked travelling. He was invited to teach at the University of Wisconsin and at UCLA. He often visited Scotland and Italy. His love of Italy was evident in his writings. It was while returning from a voyage to Sicily that he died of a heart attack.

We will remember this distinguished colleague, tall and upright, who gave the same care to his writings as to his dress.

Towards the end of 1973, Gunnar SOININEN (1904-1973), the distinguished representative of the Finnish historians of medicine, also died. He was born in Kuopio, in the centre of Finland, in the province of Savolax. Following the example of his father, he studied medicine at Helsinki and qualified, in 1932, as doctor of medicine and surgery. To acquire this doctorate, he had defended a thesis entitled : *Les causes de la maladie chez Israel Hvasser*, who was one of the most illustrious proponents of natural philosophy in the northern countries and who had taught medicine at Helsinki, then at Upsala.

Gunnar SOININEN was responsible for teaching the history of medicine, which he did for 25 years. Appointed professor in 1954, he continued after his retirement, in 1970, to direct the Museum of the History of Medicine which he had originated. It had replaced the well-endowed museum he had also founded in 1937 but, that was completely destroyed in February 1944, due to an air raid.

Gunnar SOININEN, who died on 11 December 1973, was one of the great Finnish medical historians (as also was Otto E. A. Hielt : 1823-1913). He maintained constant relations with our Society.

The twenty fourth Congress of the international Society was held in Budapest, from 25 to 31 August 1974, during the warm summer days, while the Danube flowed peacefully alongside monuments of an amazing beauty, reminders of the imperial era.

The Congress took place in a most cordial atmosphere under the presidency of Dr. E. SCHULTHEITZ, helped by the secretary general, Dr. J. ANTALL, and by Dr. E. RETI, an incredibly active co-chairman. He worked without sparing himself and provided his guests with a particularly warm welcome.

Three hundred papers were presented at this Congress ; they were classified into four sections with the following headings :

- 1. The development of medicine from the eighteenth to the twentieth century.*
- 2. The medical relations of Hungary and the East European countries with other nations.*
- 3. The history of pharmacy.*
- 4. Ethnology and the prehistory of medicine.*

During this Congress, the Assembly approved Dr. ANTALL's proposal, to create an organization to centralize all information relating to the history of medicine. This would include documents, publications, medical objects, museums, libraries, local and regional societies, etc. This proposal aroused much interest. Dr. ANTALL agreed, without further delay, to ensure the secretariat and the initial deployment.

The stay at Budapest was enlivened by visits to numerous historical monuments ; the parliament, the citadel, the Mathias church, the national gallery, the palace of the Academy of Sciences, the museum of the History of Medicine, established in the house where Ignaz-Philip Semelweiss was born and, by a lovely excursion, to lake Balaton.

The Budapest congress was hardly ended when we heard of the death of Carlos MARTINEZ-DUPAN, national delegate for Guatemala. DUPAN was well known for his detailed history of Guatemalan medicine and, for having organized and ensured the brilliant suc-

cess of the fourth Pan-American Congress of the History of Medicine, in 1969. This, he rendered even pleasanter with instructive excursions to the Maya country where superb pyramids rose out of the tropical forest.

In this same year of 1974, we lost, from among the delegates of the USSR, the one who represented the Armenian medical historians : Léon Andréovitch OGANESSIAN. He had established an institute for the history of medicine in Erevan, in Soviet Armenia and written numerous papers on the subject. It was a pleasure to hear him recall the glorious medical history of his country and all his words resonated with a profound love of his homeland.

Spiridon OECONOMOS, who was born 12 December 1886, was taken from us on 16 March 1975. We recall the great Congress he organized and presided over, in Athens, in 1960 and the wonderful tour he arranged, for the members, across the Aegean Sea that surrounds Greece whence arose our civilization.

He was a great organizer of Congresses, even with only modest means at his disposal for he possessed a rare talent for improvisation, knowing immediately how to deal with the most urgent problems.

Professor of urology at the university of Athens, all his spare time was devoted to medical history. A fervent disciple of Hippocrates, on 10 April 1960, he created on the island of Cos, where the father of medicine had practiced, an *International Hippocratic Foundation*. This was open to all the countries where mementos relating to Hippocrates were collected and also, to scholars from the world over, wishing to visit one of the birthplaces of medical knowledge.

OECONOMOS also took an active and determining share in the organization of the ceremony commemorating the fourth centenary of the death of Vesalius, which occurred at Zante (Zacynthos), in the Ionian Sea.

In 1975, while the Congress to be held in Canada, in 1976, was being prepared, we heard the sad news of the death of our honorary president, Alberto PAZZINI (1895-1975). We have already had occasion to praise the dynamism he had demonstrated during the eighth, fourteenth and twenty-first Congresses which had taken place in Italy.

PAZZINI was chair of the history of medicine at Rome since 1936 and was the founder of the magnificent museum of medical history, attached to his institute. This great teacher of the history of our art had also created an advanced school for those specializing in

historical studies. His journal, "*Pagina di Storia della Medicina*", published these scholars' papers but PAZZINI reserved one quarter of the space for the International Society, that could thus make its information and papers available in print.

Early in his career, PAZZINI had got to know Pietro CAPPARONI, one of the co-founders of our Society, who taught medical history at the university of Bari. This was the beginning of a long and fruitful collaboration. In 1932, PAZZINI became professor and was commissioned to teach at the university of Rome. In 1938, he became director of the school of medical history, of which he was still in charge, in 1954. He was appointed full professor, in 1958. When, later, he became emeritus, he then created the advanced school mentioned above and remained curator of the museum to which he had dedicated so many hours of his life. Aided by his collaboration with CAPPARONI, he ensured great vitality to *l'Accademia di Storia dell'Arte Sanitaria*, while also assisting with the *Revista di Historia delle scienze mediche e naturali*, official organ of the Italian Society for the history of medicine.

He was the author of numerous books on the Renaissance, on anatomical illustration, such as the drawings of Leonardo da Vinci, on the works of Vesalius and of Eustachus (whose plates he re-edited). He also left scholarly studies on Morgani, on the writings of Galen and of other famous physicians, without omitting his vast *History of Medicine*, in two volumes, a grand affirmation of his neo-Hippocratism.

In addition, he had begun to publish the catalogue of his Institute's vast library. He also produced a magnificent and well-illustrated revue of medical costumes. Later, he took the initiative of creating, in our Society, a prize to reward a member whose aggregate of medical historical writings showed particular merit. This was the "*Esculape d'Or*". In the first instance, in 1968, this trophy was awarded to him by unanimous vote of the assembly, in recognition of his achievements in history.

The second time, the "*Esculape d'Or*" was given to Erna LESKI, in 1970, for all her remarkable work.

Many of our Italian members are proud of having trained under PAZZINI and today, they themselves also teach medical history. Among his students, he particularly favoured Giuseppe PEZZI, physician and admiral of the Italian navy, Giroloma Spina who died in 1969, Francesco PASCARELLA who taught at Sienna and, espe-

cially, Luigi STROPPUNA, his successor and, later, vice-president of our Society. It was always impressive to see PAZZINI enter our Congresses, like a prince, followed by a dozen or more disciples.

Yet, he was a simple man. One particularly remembers his soft, kindly and harmonious voice ; it was that of a generous man, of a good man and of a great humanist.

Soon after the death of PAZZINI, we learned of that of Douglas GUTHRIE of Edinburgh, celebrated Scottish medical historian, whose book *History of Medicine* is an excellent introduction to the history of our art. He was a most lively attendant of our post-war Congresses but the inroads of age had kept him away from our reunions, these last few years.

Then, it was the turn of Walter ARTELT (1906-1976) to leave us. He occupied a special place among twentieth century historians, in the foreground. He was constantly faithful to our Society, providing precious collaboration from the nineteen-thirties onwards.

He was born 23 July 1906, the son of a dentist at Bad-Warmbrunn, in Silesia. After elementary education at Hirschberg, wishing to follow in his father's career, he attended the school of dentistry at Breslau and then, at Fribourg. Then, he joined Diepgen at Berlin, as assistant at the Institute of the History of Medicine and of Science. This was a turning point in ARTELT's life. He maintained a great admiration for his advisor and was faithful to the latter throughout his misfortunes.

He also retained nostalgic memories of warm summer days, spent under the linden trees that he so loved. Totally devoted to his historical studies in Berlin, he still found time to become doctor of philology, at the university of Franckfurt, without imagining that he would, one day, return to this city. For having become director of the Institute of Dental Science at Berlin, he later found himself offered the management of the Senckenberg Institute, at Franckfurt. It was there he received his doctorate in medicine, in 1939, to then become professor at the university.

After the war, he was very worried about the valuable personal library he had left in Silesia, but a generous Poland returned his precious collection and medium for study, down to the last book.

Invited to lecture at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, he was asked to take a permanent position but, nostalgia induced him to return to Frankfurt where he was rector, from 1962 to 1963. He continued to teach until becoming emeritus professor, in 1971. His historical papers are numerous and involve the most varied aspects

of medicine. None the less, he will remain best known for his *Introduction to Medical History*, endowed with an exceptionally detailed bibliography. All medical historians have had occasion to use it and would be pleased to have a copy in their library. ARTELT himself was a living encyclopaedia. How often was he seen at our Congresses, asking to speak so as to rectify the title or the publication date of a book or to provide the author with novel information. He always did so in a kindly manner and when the offender persisted in defending his error, he would simply say : "*Jeder hat das Recht sich zu blamieren, so gutter kann*".

Walter ARTELT himself was a man of extraordinary modesty and simplicity. In 1971, when after being vice-president, all seemed ripe for him to assume the presidency of our Society, he declined the offer in a few simple words. He then assisted another deserving member who seemed to him more suitable to fill the presidential chair.

This distinguished German scholar was part of the brilliant intellectual elite of his country and always, knew how to distinguish himself with works of remarkable erudition and of rare precision. During his retirement, he continued to work ceaselessly and to proffer his valuable advice to the Leopoldien Academy and to the Academy of Mayence.

This easy-going man was also and most considerate host. I remember that, years ago, I visited him without previous notice ; he received me with great pleasure. He then took me, with his charming wife, Frau Edith HEISCHKEL-ARTELT, to an inn in Taunus, where we had a delicious meal. He did this without ostentation and without acting like a gourmet – which he was in reality – but only to demonstrate his concern for the pleasure of his visitor.

With ARTELT, we have lost a great German, a faithful friend of our Society and a good person.

In 1976, another faithful friend of our society was taken away, the knowledgeable Russian historian, Vasilie TERNOVSKY (1888-1976). He was over ninety years old but, in spite of his great age, had attended nearly all our congresses since the end of the war. We will long remember this tall Russian scholar, rather wild in appearance, entering our meeting rooms, wearing a Tartar bonnet. Under a somewhat rough outer appearance, he hid a heart of gold. TERNOVSKY, this faithful Russian delegate, left a considerable body of work. During the whole of his life, he tried to make the works

of famous physicians accessible to the Slavic world, by translating them into Russian. Examples of these were : the writings of Celsius, the *Regimen Salernitatis* of Arnold of Villenova, the *Canon* of Avicenna, in six volumes and the *Fabrica* of Vesalius, in two volumes, this being the first edition to appear in a living language. TERNOVSKY was the promoter of great efforts made in the USSR and in the satellite countries, to develop a liking for studies in and the teaching of medical history.

He had studied medicine and the natural sciences at Moscow where he obtained his doctorate in medicine, in 1922. While teaching anatomy at Kazan and later, in Moscow and while still very young, he became interested in history but it was his detailed knowledge of anatomy that made him especially suited to translate Vesalius' *Fabrica*. The death of this famous Russian historian, always ready to be of assistance, leaves us all profoundly regretful.

Our vice-president, de la Broquerie FORTIER, finished the term of presidency of Dr. POYNTER, who had resigned. A few months later, FORTIER was unanimously elected to fill the presidential chair himself.

He organized the twenty-sixth Congress, which took place in Quebec, from 21 to 28 August 1976.

It was soon obvious that this Congress was in good hands, with assured success. For the first time in the Americas, naturally, it attracted many participants from the New World countries, especially the United States. Nevertheless, many historians from other continents, especially from Europe, visited with interest this Canadian land whose people with ancestors in common English, Scottish, Irish, French, Austrian, Hungarian, Czech, Polish, German, Italian and Belgian, had arrived on this soil, attracted by this immense land full of expectation.

Quebec, where the Congress was taking place, is very reminiscent of a French province, and those participants, who went to the city of Quebec by road, saw much evidence of this likeness.

They were equally surprised by the hilly country, where fields, orchards, prairies and woods alternated with one-storey houses with extensive roofs whose overhanging eaves covered extensive verandas, painted white, in surroundings reminiscent of Europe, most especially of Normandy and Brittany. Those who visited the elevated city of Quebec, with its steep winding roads, its churches, hospitals and majestic town hall buildings, saw with amazement a

reminder of another world and a monument to imperishable memories.

It was with pleasure that the members met in this province of Quebec whose inhabitants have remained defenders of tradition and the guardians of a disinterested ideal, for they know how to work. They also know how to enjoy life, singing and sleeping for they believe it is not meant exclusively for the acquisition of money. They know how to reserve a large place for the spiritual side of existence.

Let us briefly recall the themes of the Congress :

1. *The influence of European medicine on American medicine at the time of the independence of the United States.*
2. *American medicine.*
3. *The Middle Ages and medicine.*
4. *Popular medicine.*
5. *Varia.*

A brilliant symposium, dedicated to the history and perspectives of social medicine, formed a successful ending to this program.

The Congress, enlivened with attractive tours, left excellent memories with the participants. Dr. de la Broquerie FORTIER has long been professor of clinical paediatrics at Laval University, in Quebec and director of the Christ-Roi hospital. He is one of the most active members of the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine and has written extensively on the history of hospitals and institutions reserved for the treatment of young children in Quebec.

The participants brought back wonderful memories from this land, discovered by Jack Cartier, by sailing up the Saint Lawrence and, from this city, founded by Champlain, in 1609.

In 1976, the International Society for the History of Medicine had 647 members, distributed as follows : Europe 392, America 218, Africa 5, Oceania 3.

Soon after the Quebec congress, we were grieving the death of José Maria Llopis (1894-1976) of Venezuela. Born in Spain on 27 August 1894, Llopis left his native country for the New World after the civil war and found in Venezuela a new homeland. This man dedicated himself to health problems and their history. He played

an important role in Caracas, as secretary of the Venezuelan Society for the History of Medicine and in the organization of the Pan-American Congress of the History of Medicine, held in Caracas, in 1961.

1977 was dedicated to preparing for the twenty-sixth International Congress at Plovdiv, in Bulgaria.

Dr. de la Broquerie FORTIER could not attend because of illness. It was thus that I acquired the honour of presenting the respects of our Society, at this Congress.

The Congress was held, in 1978, in the second city of Bulgaria and was presided over by Véra PAVLOVA who taught the history of medicine at Sofia, before becoming attached to the Academy of Sciences. There, she headed the department of historical research in science.

Véra PAVLOVA had an exciting youth for, before the war, she accompanied her father in exile, first to Berlin, then to the USSR. There, she became assistant to Boris PETROV, at the Institute for the History of Medicine, at Moscow. During the war, she was parachuted behind the German lines to rejoin the partisans until the Russians arrived. She then continued the war with them, during their triumphant advance towards Budapest.

Today Véra PAVLOVA has become a peaceful woman, with little to remind one of her past except that she remains dynamic.

Furthermore, she was marvellously assisted in her work by Salvator ISRAEL. Professor at Sophia, a man of remarkable scholarship, possessing an extraordinary gift for languages, which enabled him to address nearly all the participants in their native language. PAVLOVA and ISRAEL, both, received high honours from the Bulgarian government for the remarkable manner in which they organized the Congress.

The subjects on the program were as follows :

1. *Medical relations between Bulgaria and the rest of the world across the ages.*
2. *Bulgarian medicine from its origins to the present.*
3. *Folkloric medicine.*
4. *The history of military medicine.*
5. *Varia.*

Six hundred and eighty-four people were at the congress which was one best attended of all those organized by the International Society for the History of Medicine.

It is true that Plovdiv, this bright metropolis in Thrace, deserves to be visited on its own merits. Because of its key position in the plain of Thrace, it is ,today, the second city of Bulgaria and a centre of road and rail communication.

The city is rich in historical monuments. In 341 BC, Philip of Macedonia made it his capital, under the name of Philippopolis. Later, it was fought over by the Thracians, the Celts and the Macedonians, before falling to the Romans and the Goths, followed by the Slavic invaders. Later, she belonged to the Byzantine Empire, until the Turks took over for several centuries. Liberated by the Russians, in 1878, she was to undergo occupation by the Germans before finding freedom once again. However, the valiant Bulgarian nation always knew how to cope with invaders and keep its national identity.

The city of Plovdiv has numerous tokens of past invaders. The houses and monuments, in the old town, form picturesque examples.

Fine excursions took the members of the Congress across the Balkan chain of the Rhodope Mountains, with their wild gorges and perched villages. We climbed the famous rock, that of Orpheus who, during the war of the Argonauts, had received a lyre from Apollo and, from the Muses, the gift of bewitching with his music, not only the wild animals but also, the trees and rocks. On returning from his expedition, he married the nymph Eurydice and followed her into Hades when she fell victim to the bite of a snake. Further on, from an elevated plateau, we could see, across the immense plain of Thrace, the Aegean Sea upon which the setting sun reflected its golden rays.

The Congress participants left this lovely city of Plovdiv with regret. It was an enchanting town with three hills (*Trimontium*) about which Lamartine, returning from his travels in the Orient and sitting on one of the slopes, was to write: "Sited on a rocky hill, isolated in the middle of a large and fertile valley, Plovdiv has one of the most beautiful natural sites that one can imagine for a city".

The same year, as the Congress of Plovdiv, the International Society lost Leon ELAUT (1897-1978) on 2 April 1978.

A Belgian medical historian, ELAUT was born at Ghent where he was professor of urology, before the war and, afterwards, professor of the history of medicine. His principle works are : *La pensée médicale dans l'Antiquité, au Moyen Age et à la Renaissance* (1952) ; *Le développement historique du secret médical* (1958) ; *Anthologie grecque et latine des meilleurs chirurgiens* (1960) and a monograph in French : *Cent portraits de médecins célèbres* (1960), published under the pseudonym of S. JONAS. These consist of one hundred excellent sketches of famous physicians, whose life and work he recalls with much precision in an agreeable style, although at times truculent or even, slightly ferocious. Thus, he confirms himself as a son of the land of Bruegel.

He was a tireless researcher whose attachment to the Flemish cause, naturally, led to the special study of the medical past of this area of Belgium. It also induced him to bring important contributions to Belgian medical history by using, hitherto, unknown sources. We owe him more than 300 writings in the history of medicine.

The same year, we also lost, on 14 March 1978, Jacques POULET who had succeeded Charles COURY in the chair of the History of Medicine. His premature death did not leave him time to display all his knowledge or all his talents. He was occupied, especially in the last years of his life, in modernizing LAIGNEL-LAVASTINE's encyclopaedic History of Medicine, by gathering into eight volumes *L'Histoire de la Médecine, de la Pharmacie et de l'Art Dentaire*. Actually, he edited this collection with the assistance of Jean-Charles SOURNIA, Roger RULLIERE, Marcel MARTIGNY and André PECKER but, it was only published after his death.

During 1979, there, died other members who had carried out important duties for our Society. First to go was the elderly Jean TURCHINI (1894-1979), a renowned histologist of the faculty of medicine of Montpellier who organized most impressively our Society's sixteenth Congress, held in the capital of Languedoc, in 1958. Latter TURCHINI was to continue giving the Society the benefit of his assistance and his personality, for he attended all our Congresses. He wrote on Mediaeval and Renaissance medicine.

The same year, the Society sadly lost her old president, taken away by a merciless illness. Frederic-Noël POYNTER was born in London, on 24 December 1903. A literary man, it was his interest in bibliography that led him to become involved in the history of our profession. In 1964, he succeeded Ashworth UNDERWOOD as director of the Wellcome Museum in London. There, he demonstrated

ceaseless energy, leaving an extensive body of bibliographic work. It was in this field that he was unusually useful and competent. In 1954, he had already edited a *Catalogue of the Incunabula in the Wellcome Museum* and, since 1962, he had undertaken to edit the *Catalogue of the Wellcome Library*. Under his directorship, three volumes of this collection have already appeared. They are certain to be most useful to researchers. POYNTER wrote a book on the evolution of medical practice (1961) ; after that, he tackled the history of the development of hospitals, of pharmacy, and of medical instruction. Together with W. H. Bishop, he published a monograph on a Plymouth surgeon (1961) and with K. D. Keel, he wrote a brief *History of Medicine* (1961). He also published the diary of James Young (1697-1721), a surgeon at Plymouth. Then followed, in 1971, his *Man and Medicine*, plus other works of general culture.

He was also connected with the production of numerous journals, for example, with *Medical History* whose publication he ensured.

Many members will remember the welcome he gave to the numerous visitors to his Institute, often providing them with precious records and documentation.

Having reached the age of retirement in 1973, he left the Wellcome Institute to retire in France, at Martel, in the Quercy. He had bought an old house which he modernized with good taste. He hoped to enjoy a peaceful retirement there but, fate decided otherwise and he died at Brive, on 12 March 1979.

Thus, we lost an amiable colleague who developed a taste for medico-historical studies in Great Britain and who had made the Wellcome Institute into a lively and most hospitable research centre.

Early in 1980, when the Committee of the ISHM was making final arrangements for the twenty-seventh international Congress, came the news of the death of André FINOT (1884-1980) who, for many years, was the Society's archivist.

With meticulous care, André FINOT had collected all the documents concerning the creation and the ongoing activities of our Society. The post of archivist was eliminated in 1964 and, since then, these documents are kept in the library of the Museum of the History of Medicine, at the Faculty of Medicine, in Paris, rue de l'Ecole de Médecine.

For many years, André FINOT was curator of this Museum of the History of Medicine that, at the beginning of the century, had been created by NEVEU who, subsequently, was its curator.

André FINOT was not searching for honours and liked working quietly in his office. He concealed himself under the name of Dr. BENASSIS, and it was in this name that his writings were published. These were an important historical contribution through which numerous medico-literary and medico-artistic articles illustrated and relieved the austerity of the *Revue thérapeutique des Alcaloïdes*, a journal for physiological and clinical studies of alkaloids or other active principles from plant matter. Thus, appeared his : *Essais de clinique romantique, Essais de clinique littéraire, Essais de clinique artistique, Promenades médicales à travers les vieilles pierres de la Faculté de Médecine et des hôpitaux de Paris, Histoire de la clinique médicale d' Imhotep à Trousseau, Histoire des facultés de médecine de province avant la Révolution, les névrosés de la Littérature et de l'Histoire* and other works. These demonstrated that FINOT combined, with his medical knowledge, a profound appreciation of literature and the arts. Today, his numerous essays, now rare, continue to charm those readers who can find them.

André FINOT, whose ready pen was never still, was the oldest member of our Society. He had the great but painful privilege of surviving his contemporaries for he died at the age of 96.

In 1980, Dr. de la Broquerie FORTIER finished his presidential mandate. He was named president emeritus of our Society for the important services he had rendered to the society. Unanimously, the members of the management committee asked Professor SOURNIA to take over the presidency. At the almost same time, Dr. Endre RETI (1911-1980), of Budapest, left us, dying on 6 April 1980. Dr. RETI studied medicine in Italy, at Padua, Bari and Milan where he qualified, in 1937. He then worked at the Salpêtrière, at the Hôtel-Dieu and at the Saint-Louis hospital, in Paris, before returning to his own country, in 1941. He was director of the Semmelweis Museum, at Budapest and honorary president of the Hungarian Society for the History of Medicine. Our members will remember this distinguished colleague who could captivate his audience by the charm of his speech and who, also, possessed the knack of receiving his guests with warmth. In his country, he played a large part in the effort to promote the study of medical history. He is the author of remarkable bio-bibliographic works and of numerous papers relating to the history of Hungarian medicine.

The Congress at Barcelona (31 August – 6 September 1980) opened under favourable auspices. Two rival schools had fought over the honour of presiding over and organizing the congress and, one of them, was the winner. Professors CID and DANON played a considerable part in the organization. The Congress took place at the Academy of Medical Sciences of Catalonia and at the Institute of Catalanian Studies. Professor SOURNIA extended congratulations to the Congress in the name of the ISHM. He did so, with redoubled pleasure, since it was the perfect occasion for evoking his Catalan origins.

The subjects for the papers were as follows :

1. *The history of psychiatry and psychoanalysis.*
2. *Iberian medical migrations throughout the world.*
3. *The history of translations of medical works.*
4. *The development of naval medicine worldwide.*

It was a choice and very varied program but, the papers concerning mediaeval Iberia were the best attended, especially since, on this Spanish soil, Arabs, Jews and Christians had lived for centuries if not in total communion, at least, working together on the progress of medicine. The conquering Muslims had, in fact, brought with them the Greek heritage that Spanish Jews and Christians, in turn, transmitted to the West by translating Arabic writings into Latin.

Numerous manuscripts, in Arabic, that have never been translated, may be found in Iberian and Arabic libraries, under layers of dust. For young Muslim researchers, these form an important source of work and perhaps, of future discoveries.

Dr. Antonio CARDONER, professor of physiology and member of the Real Academy of Medicine, presided over the Congress. He was well prepared for the task for beginning in 1934, he initiated medical historical studies, in Barcelona and published *The History of the Royal College of Surgeons of Barcelona* and *The History of Medicine at the Court of the Kings of Aragon (1162-1479)*.

He was well assisted, in his efforts, by Felipe CID, professor of medical history at the autonomous University of Barcelona (1968) and director of the Museum of the History of Medicine of Catalonia (1979) and also, by Joseph DANON, director of the Archive Centre

of the History of Medicine (1969) and adjunct professor of medical history (1978).

All three ensured a superbly organized Congress. It was further improved by excursions to the Cistercian Abbeys of the Holy Cross, of Poblet and of Tarragon, full of mementos of the past. Artistic distractions were not lacking either for the participants could sample Catalan music, painting and monastic architecture. Furthermore, while walking in the streets of the Spanish pueblo, they received a foretaste of the rest of Spain. Many participants stayed longer to visit the country, so rich in past memories.

The Barcelona Congress was saddened by the death of Rafael Martinez MONTOYA, the leader of the Venezuelan delegation who, thus, died in harness. Late 1980, witnessed another death, that of Hans-Heinz EULNER who was particularly attached to our Society.

EULNER was born in Halle on the Saale, the capital of Saxony. He finished school in 1942 and then, studied medicine until the time when, in 1943, he was called up into the *Kriegs Marine*. His period at sea left a strong influence that may be found in many of his writings such as : *Zur Geschichte der Meeresheilkunde*, etc. From 1946 on, he returned to his medical studies and was an assistant at the Pharmacological Institute, at Halle. There, he had the good fortune to meet Rudolph Zaunick who, in 1952, occupied the chair of medical history. The two men influenced each other for, if Zaunick was to impress his strong personality on his young student, the latter helped his well-known mentor, an old man belonging to an earlier generation, better to integrate himself in modern life. EULNER who taught pharmacology at Halle, later, taught medical history there and then, at Erfurt. Having drawn attention to himself through his numerous publications, he was invited by ARTELT, in 1958, to become assistant at the Seckenberg Institute, at Frankfurt. This was the occasion, for EULNER, to acquire another prestigious mentor and further training, before occupying, at Göttingen, the chair of History of Medicine that Gernot had just left to take over the one in Munich.

EULNER knew how to transform his institute at Göttingen into a centre for historical research. He also promoted the study of the development of specialization. His book *Die Entwicklung der Medizinische Spezialfächer an den Universitäten des deutschen Sprachgebietes* is a most meritorious work. Too soon, he was lost to our members and to the affection of his companion, Dr. Ursula Eulner who was his guardian angel and who accompanied him to all our Congresses.

After losing the delegate for German historians, we lost the Polish delegate who had also been vice-president of our Society : Stanislas SZPILCZINSKI. He was a member of the Polish Academy for the History of Science and brought, to his country, valuable collaboration with the history of medicine. We owe to him important studies on Copernicus and on Claude Bernard. As friendly as he was discreet, he was regretted by everyone.

Edgar Ashworth UNDERWOOD (1899-1981), a veteran of our society also died in 1981. Two years previously (9 March 1979), he had celebrated his eightieth birthday. He was born in Dumfries and took part in World War I, with the Cameron Highlanders, in France. After studying medicine and also, science at Glasgow, he was interested for twenty years in health problems, particularly in tuberculosis. Thus, in 1931, he published *A Manual of Tuberculosis*. Also interested in epidemic infections, he produced an important contribution to the study of cholera : *Cholera Morbus, precautions, prevention and remedies*. During the Second World War, he directed the medical school in the county borough at Westham, an industrial suburb of London, working in an area especially targeted for bombing by the Luftwaffe. In 1946, UNDERWOOD was made director of the Wellcome Museum which, itself damaged by bombs, was not to be completely restored until after UNDERWOOD's retirement. In other words, he did not have an easy task for, in addition to the historical collections that needed to be installed in the famous library originated by Sir Henry Wellcome, there was also the classification of these ten thousands of volumes. It was at the Wellcome that began his true career as a historian and his numerous contributions to several journals and dictionaries. In 1962, he revised Singer's *Short history of medicine*, expanding the work considerably, while preserving the original text. It is therefore quite just that his name appears alongside that of the great British historian of science on the title page of this new publication. He had also edited in two magnificent volumes : *Science, medicine and history*, composed of 90 papers dedicated to Singer by his admirers. Among the numerous works of Ashworth UNDERWOOD, should also be mentioned *A history of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London, 1617-1815*, originally written by H. Charles Cameron but to which UNDERWOOD added 200 pages of explanatory notes. The second volume of this work was never published owing to UNDERWOOD's illness. Nevertheless, he published an English translation of G erit-Arie LINDEBOOM's *Herman Boerhaave* (1968) and

expressed his own special interest in the latter with *Boerhaave's men at Leyden and after (1977)*.

He was SINGER's son in law and this relationship reinforced his love of history. Having retired from the Wellcome, he went to live at Walton-on-Thames, not far from London. He was still working there among all his books, as if in a museum, while his wife Nancy, SINGER's daughter, taught. He was surrounded by two beautiful dogs, a guard-dog and a little runt, full of mischief. In addition, he enjoyed watching his daughters and granddaughters, playing on his garden lawn.

UNDERWOOD also liked music and mountain climbing. He climbed the Gran Sasso, the highest mountain in Italy south of the Alps. This slender, elegant man hid a romantic heart under a shy exterior. Thus, one day, I came upon him sitting on the Acropolis, quite loudly humming the tunes with which lord Byron had sung to the glories and misfortunes of Greece.

UNDERWOOD was one of the veterans of our Society. He died on 6 March 1980, a year after he had mourned POYNTER, his successor at the Wellcome.

Here, I will end this retrospective view of the past history of our Society, between the years 1970 and 1982. I have recalled the cycle of Congresses undertaken by our Society during these years, since the organization of these congresses remains one of the essential purposes of our Society. I have also provided a reminder of those who left us during this period, either because they provided important contributions as directors of our Society, or because their work was brilliant. Many other meritorious members have died, these last few years. I would have liked also to remember them but, the limited number of pages allowed to this history does not allow for a detailed revue of their lives and of their work, even if, just as worthy, I am planning to recall their precious collaboration in another more detailed history of our Society.

For the time being, I pay our respects to them all in common.

I should now talk about the living. I congratulate our President, the members of our Managing Committee and all our national delegates, for the remarkable work they are accomplishing in ensuring vitality to our Society.

It would be unforgivable, however, not to offer special thanks to our secretary general, Doctor Louis DULIEU who watches the destiny of our Society, with special attention and constancy, while devoting his precious collaboration to its service.

Member of our Society since 1950, secretary general of the sixteenth international Congress (Montpellier, 1958), Louis DULIEU, general physician to the French army, participated in the Second World War, the Indochina campaign and that in Algeria.

He always knew, even when at the other end of the world, how to dedicate a large part of his life and time to our Society. He has devoted a large number of works to the medical life of Montpellier. Now, he has collected all his findings in a large encyclopaedic work on the history of medicine, surgery and pharmacy, in Montpellier. Five volumes have already been published and – one can already be certain – it will remain a unique source of documentation for those future scholars who will be interested in the past of the most ancient medical school in France.

A most modest and obliging person, one can affirm that his work acts like yeast, ensuring the prosperity of our Society and vouching for a happy future. Mr. Secretary General, our best wishes : *Ad multos annos.*

We are today about to celebrate our twenty-seventh Congress for the History of Medicine, which will take place in Paris, from 29 August until 3 September 1982.

As it is our current President, Professor J.C. SOURNIA who has taken the responsibility of organizing it, we can already be sure that under his dynamic and enlightened leadership, the Congress will be superbly organized and a great success.

Here is the program :

1. *History of public health.*
2. *Communication in medicine.*
3. *Therapeutics and medicaments.*
4. *Varia.*

We hope that this Congress, following the example of previous ones, will forge a chain of continuity with the work of our predecessors.

May our work, undertaken in common, create general methods so that the collection of our historical writings will, one day, form a homogeneous whole, a true history of medicine. Thus, out of stacks of work and widely scattered efforts, will emerge a result fruitful for the realization of our common ideal : to raise an objec-

tive picture of the history of our art and to set off the underlying causes which were present at the birth of a work of genius, meaning the development of medicine.