

you a complete picture of general practice in the United States, but they may induce a critical appraisal of our own conditions of practice. The thought as to whether anything I saw over there might be usefully applied at home was never far from my mind. The most important conclusion I came to was that any observer of the American scene would have to concede to the general practitioner in his hospital work a most creditable performance.

So, should it not be possible in our hospitals to take advantage of the help the general practitioners could give? It would fill the void created by the chronic shortage of junior hospital staff and at the same time end the clinical isolation of the general practitioners in this country.

THIRD CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF MEDICAL PRACTICE

The congress took place, as in 1960, in Salzburg on 11—14 September 1961. The proceedings were opened by Dr Engelmeier (Oelde Westphalia), the vice-president and co-founder with Dr Braun of the College. This was followed by a prize distribution for essays on " Changing Concepts of Disease in Changing Times ".

The opening lecture was given by PROFESSOR SCHULTEN (Cologne) on " The Doctor and Ethics ". He maintained that there were no specific medical ethics, merely the application of universal ethical standards to the conditions of medical practice. To uphold his ethical standards it was essential that the doctor be independent. While it was customary to demand that the doctor should not lie, it was also important for him to consider what the patient made out of the ' truth ' imparted to him. At the conclusion of his address Professor Schulten was made an honorary member of the College.

DR BLUME (Göteborg, Sweden) spoke on the psychological basis of many common orthopaedic complaints showing parallels with other known psychosomatic conditions and pointing out the ineffectivity of purely physical treatment in such conditions as lumbago, brachialgia, and the cervical syndrome.

DR GEIGER (Ötz, Tirol) gave his address on the subject of unusual pain localizations in influenza and influenza-like illnesses as pointers to later disease.

DR KUSS (Göttingen) demonstrated his apparatus for hip traction

in the treatment of myalgia and sciatica. He claimed a 90 per cent success rate with this treatment. "The 10 per cent unsuccessfully treated cases had always either abdominal disease or a carcinoma underlying the rheumatic complaint". He followed up treatment when the patient was symptom-free by injection of any remaining tender spots with novocaine and hydrocortisone.

DR ENGELMEIER spoke on "The Situation of the Medical Practitioner". In his opinion general practice should be a separate subject in the medical curriculum and should be taught by practising doctors. He quoted the pioneer work being done in this respect in Great Britain by the general practice teaching unit in Edinburgh under the direction of Dr Richard Scott.

MR C. W. KIDD (Belfast) spoke on the Welfare State in Great Britain with its coverage "from the cradle to the grave".

DR GOSSMANN reported her successful treatment of 124 cases of leg ulcer. After preliminary treatment she applied a substance obtained fresh from the placenta (Eihaut—allantoin) and applied supporting bandages which were changed every 2—6 weeks. Treatment usually lasted 12—14 months.

Other addresses included papers on gynaecological diagnosis (DR BRANDT, East Germany), new drugs in practice (DR LÜTH OFFENBACH, Main), everyday work of the doctor (DR SCHLEGEL, Zurich), general practice research (DR BRANDELMEIER, Sulzbach-Rosenberg), geriatrics in practice (DR SZAKOLYI), diabetes (DR KRAUSE, East Germany) and nomenclature in cardiology (PROF. HALHUBER, Innsbruck).

Active discussion followed all the addresses which were given during the morning sessions. In the afternoons the Annual General Meeting of the College was held. Dr Geiger, Ötz, Tirol, was elected president. Drs Grab, Oswald and Luth were elected to the Advisory Council and the office of general secretary was taken over by Dr Engelmeier.

There was a sad note of contemporary politics in the absence of the East German members of the College who failed to obtain the necessary entry permits. The papers by Drs Brandt and Krause were read on their behalf and a telegram was sent from Dresden, where the East German members had congregated, giving their views on the individual points on the agenda of the meeting.

The next congress of the College will be held in Salzburg from 20—23 September 1962, and it is hoped that representatives from the United Kingdom will be able to attend.