

the stepping stones! ” In extending my good wishes to you all for an interesting and fruitful conference, I hope and I believe and I am sure that you will not only tell each other about the stepping stones, but share them with everybody else.

Chairman: This is the eighth annual symposium held in this auditorium, but our first international symposium. It is a privilege for me to be involved in it and I am sure that we shall all enjoy it immensely.

We welcome Dr Stampar from Yugoslavia, Dr Huygen from the Netherlands, with, I believe, a colleague in the audience, and Dr Medalie from Israel. We look forward to hearing their papers, and between the papers there will be a brief interval, not for discussion, but for questions. We also welcome some colleagues from the United States.

There are many who deserve our thanks for making this symposium possible—first, our hosts; and it is so good to have had Dr Denis Wheeler to welcome us. He and his colleagues have been our hosts in every sense of the word, with meals, in the past, and on this occasion they have given generously to help defray the expenses of organizing this international symposium.

We are grateful to the British Council, and in particular, to Dr Margaret Suttill, Dr Crawford Jones and Mr MacNaghten, of the Visitors' Department, who have made the whole of the arrangements for the past week for our visitors easy and smooth. Our visitors are finishing a very, very busy week, and it is marvellous to think they have any energy left to come and speak to us today. They have been welcomed by the Ministry and much has been shown to them. They attended a general-practitioner discussion/seminar at The Tavistock Clinic on emotional disorders in general practice.

We have to thank Sir George Godber, Dr Gallagher, Dr Talbot Rogers and Dr MacGregor, who discussed the working and administration of the National Health Service; also Dr A. B. Stewart, chief medical officer of the London County Council, who took our visitors to Woodberry Down Health Centre and discussed various aspects of care from a health centre point of view; also Dr I. Ash, the medical officer of health of Harlow New Town, who gave up a morning to introduce them to some general practitioners at the various health centres and to discussing the closer working of general practitioners and public health doctors and their

ancillary staff; also we thank Drs John and Valerie Graves, who showed them all the methods and working of the medical recording service, which began in such a very small and modest way and has grown into a barely manageable, world-wide service. On Monday our visitors were with Professor Richard Scott and his colleagues in the General Teaching Unit in Edinburgh. On Tuesday they were in Manchester with Dr R. Logan and colleagues at the health centre to discuss problems of medical care. At lunch they met many local general practitioners and in the evening at dinner they met our old friend and honorary fellow, Professor Sir Robert Platt, and some colleagues, to continue the discussion. We have to thank Dr Ivan MacIntyre for these arrangements.

On Wednesday our visitors were in Birmingham to meet Dr Crombie, Dr Pinsent and Dr Cross, and other friends, to discuss the working of the College statistical unit and to see how it works. On Thursday they were in Bristol to meet colleagues and friends and to continue the discussion on medical care, student teaching and future plans in student and young general practitioner attachment. Here, we have to thank all the colleagues who took part, and Drs Michael and Joan Lennard who took care of our visitors and were responsible for the excellent arrangements. On Friday they were in Winchester to meet Dr Ian MacDougall, the medical officer of health, and his health team, who co-operate so closely with general practitioners; and they met Dr George Swift, Dr Ronald Gibson and others, who took part in the meetings and hospitality towards our guests. Dr J. Henneman took an active part in making the visit a smooth and interesting one.

We have to thank the Ministries of Health in Yugoslavia, the Netherlands and Israel, for lending their official support to this visit, and especially we have to thank the College staff for their untiring efforts to make this symposium a success in spite of the pressure from day-to-day work with the annual general meeting yesterday, and the shortage of staff. To all our friends and colleagues and helpers, on behalf of the College, a very big thank-you!

We welcome our speakers and look forward to hearing their papers, and it is with special pleasure that the first speaker is a sister colleague, a full-time rural general practitioner at a health centre in Yugoslavia.