GENERAL MEETING, 1951

A general meeting of the Council was held at Barcelona on September 23, 1951. The President, Dr. W. S. C. Copeman, who was in the chair, gave the following address:

The following messages have been received by the editors from rheumatologists abroad:

La Ligue Européenne contre le Rhumatisme vous prie accepter pous vous et vos membres l’assurance de notre vive sympathie et profondes condoléances à l’occasion de la mort de votre illustre roi. Ferond, Président.

Le Comité d’Administration et les Membres de la “Ligue Belge contre le Rhumatisme”, vivement émus par la décès du roi Georges VI, prennent une part très profonde au deuil qui frappe la nation britannique.

Ils me chargent de présenter au Comité et aux Membres de la “British Branch of the European League against Rheumatism” l’expression de leur très vive sympathie. Colinet, Secrétaire-Général.

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The Secretary-General of the Ligue Européenne will report on the work of the Ligue for these past two years during which I have had the honour to be its President. Therefore, I shall not go into details, but just venture a few remarks of a more general nature.

Part of the Ligue’s work has been done in conjunction with the Ligue Internationale contre le Rhumatisme, of which it forms a not insignificant part.

In this connection I should like to mention the work done by both the European and Pan-American leagues to gain the official recognition of the World Health Organization, which was obtained in February, 1950, after the fifth Session of the Executive Board of the W.H.O.

Because of economic conditions we have not yet succeeded in establishing the Expert Committee of Rheumatic Diseases, but I know that the President of the Ligue Internationale and Professor Walthard (Geneva) are working intensively on this problem.

The first edition of the Yearbook of the Ligue Internationale was published with prefaces in English, French, and Spanish by the National Danish Association against Rheumatic Diseases, and during the course of
this meeting this whole question of further publication and finance will be discussed thoroughly. Lastly, I should like to mention that the financial position of the Ligue Européenne can be considered satisfactory, as is shown by the statement of accounts already circulated to all councillors. The Secretary, Dr. Kalbak, who has worked so hard and so successfully for us during these years, will be presenting the accounts on behalf of the Treasurer. This is an unfortunate necessity, as Mr. Ove de Bornemann’s health has not permitted him to be with us at this council meeting, and I am afraid that in the future we shall be deprived of his valuable assistance as treasurer. I am sure you will all agree that this is most regrettable and that we must send him our most cordial thanks for all he has done for us! (Applause.)

It has been a great pleasure to me to be President of the Ligue Européenne during this period in which rheumatological research has progressed so brilliantly. May I express the hope that the coming two years will show still further progress in this science, bringing positive results for the aid of the many patients who are suffering from rheumatic diseases everywhere in the world.

The following councillors were present at the general meeting:

Austria: Prof. K. Gotsch and Dr. W. Schindler.
Belgium: Dr. M. Ory and Prof. W. Esser.
Czechoslovakia: Not represented.
Denmark: Dr. K. Jespersen.
Eire: Not represented.
Finland: Dr. P. Peltola.
France: Prof. S. de Seze and Dr. A. Thiers.
Great Britain: Dr. G. D. Kersley.
Hungary: Not represented.
Italy: Prof. G. Sabatini and Prof. A. Masturzo.
Netherlands: Not represented.
Norway: Not represented.
Portugal: Prof. A. Flores and Dr. A. Teixeira.
Spain: Dr. R. Círera Volta and Dr. J. Grinda.
Sweden: Dr. O. Lövgren.
Switzerland: Prof. K. M. Walthard and Prof. A. Böni.
Turkey: Not represented.
Yugoslavia: Not represented.

The following executives were also present:

Secretary-General: Dr. G. Edström (Sweden).
President Ligue Internationale: Prof. E. Jarlov (Denmark).
Secretary-Treasurer Ligue Internationale: Dr. W. S. Hegner (Great Britain).
Dr. Mathieu-Pierre Weil (France).
Dr. P. Barceló (Spain).
Prof. L. Michotte (Belgium).
Dr. K. Kalbak (Denmark).

Apologies for absence were received from Dr. M. Ferond (Belgium), and Mr. O. de Bornemann (Denmark).

The Chairman then asked the Secretary-General, Dr. Edström, to deliver his report:

During the two years that have passed since the Congress at New York in 1949, the work of the Ligue Européenne contre le Rhumatisme has mainly been dominated by the observations of Hench, Kendall, and their co-workers with regard to the effect of cortisone and ACTH on the rheumatic diseases. These new discoveries—the importance of which may be judged from the fact that Drs Hench and Kendall together with Prof. Reichstein from Switzerland received the Nobel Prize last year for their work—raised rheumatology to a level which has been of great advantage to all of us who are interested in this science.

Interest in the rheumatic diseases is steadily growing all over the world, and this has manifested itself in the increasing number of members in the organizations of the various countries, in the mounting number of articles on rheumatological subjects, and, not least in importance, in the high standard of their content, which is continuously improving. Here I should like to mention the Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases, which, in my opinion, has developed into a first-class journal. It is a pleasure to me to express officially how very well pleased the Ligue Européenne is with this journal, and, at the same time, to thank our British colleagues for their work in making this periodical inter-European as well as international. There is hardly any doubt that the Annals has also contributed to a great extent towards the happy development of inter-European teamwork amongst rheumatologists.

It is likewise pleasing to note that the many local scientific periodicals on rheumatology in the various European countries have also increased. I should particularly like to mention the Revue du Rhumatisme, the Zeitschrift für Rheumaforschung, and the Revista Española de Reumatismo.

Another sign of the growing importance of rheumatology is that in recent years professorships have been established one after the other all over Europe: this year has seen the inauguration of those of Professor Coste in Paris, Professor Michotte in Louvain, and Professor Masturzo in Naples.

Yet another expression of growing interest has been seen in the many national and local scientific meetings held in these past two years, all well attended, and scientifically profitable.

Besides being able to establish that scientific research work is growing steadily and that rheumatology is being accepted as a definite subject amongst physicians the world over, it is a great pleasure to me at this meeting to inform you that the number of member states in the European league has been increased from seventeen to nineteen; the Austrian league has become a member since the last congress, with Professor Gotsch as President, and Germany was also admitted only to-day.

The Secretary, Dr. Kalbak, then presented the
Statement of Accounts for the year 1950 on behalf of the Treasurer, Mr. de Bornemann, and this was unanimously approved by the meeting.

Under the item, New Elections, the chairman mentioned that only one proposal for the new president had been received, namely that from the Belgian league, suggesting Dr. Ferond. This proposal was unanimously accepted, and the other officers were also unanimously elected.

**LIGUE BELGE CONTRE LE RHUMATISME**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1952**

President: Dr. M. Ferond (Belgium).
First Vice-President: Dr. Pedro Barceló (Spain).
Second Vice-President: Dr. J. Goslings (Netherlands).
Secretary-General: Dr. G. Edström (Sweden).
Vice-Secretary-General: Prof. L. Michotte (Belgium).
Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. K. Kalbak (Denmark).

Dr. Kalbak was asked to combine the treasurer-ship of the league with the secretaryship, since, as already mentioned, the Treasurer, Mr. de Bornemann, had decided not to stand for re-election.

**SOCIETÀ ITALIANA PER LO STUDIO DEL REUMATISMO**

**SIXTH NATIONAL CONGRESS, 1952**

The Italian Rheumatism Association will hold its Sixth Congress at Taormina, Sicily, on May 23 and 24, 1952. The following papers will be read: Prof. S. Pisani, Fibrositis and Allied Pathological Conditions. Prof. L. Villa, C. B. Ballabo, and G. Sala, The Problem of Cortisone in the Rheumatic Field. Prof. C. Marini-Zuco, Osteo-Arthritis of the Hip. Problems and Feasibility of Orthopaedic Surgery.

**INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE, 1952**

The International Federation of Physical Medicine is organizing an International Congress to take place at King’s College, London, from July 14 to 19, 1952, under the local management of the British Association of Physical Medicine. Lord Horder has been appointed President, with representative committees to organize the Congress. The attractive programme deals with Physical Education in the promotion of Physical Fitness; Rehabilitation and Resettlement; Chronic Rheumatic Disorders; Electro-Diagnostic Methods, etc. The social programme is also well planned, and the Congress will be followed by a 5-day provincial tour to places of interest associated with the objects of the Congress, including the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Further information and details of the arrangements may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Dr. A. C. Boyle, British Association of Physical Medicine, 45 Lincoln’s Inn Fields, London, W.C. 1.