into implanted plastic sponges are the criteria used. A series of sulphonamides, antimalarial, antibiotics, cortisone, and phenylbutazone are all compared at a single arbitrary dose level, and by this method all these substances appear to have a somewhat similar effect. This is followed by some experimental studies of adrenal atrophy in rats after steroid administration and accounts of the clinical use of prednisone in various rheumatic diseases.

Professor Coste himself contributes an excellent article on the early symptoms and signs of rheumatoid arthritis, and Dr. Piguet gives a good account of the radiological and clinical features of rheumatoid arthritis of the hip, an important and much neglected subject.

There is a series of chapters on what are described as dermato-rheumatic syndromes, such as dermatomyositis, scleroderma, systemic lupus erythematosus, and the non-suppurative panniculitis of Weber-Christian. Among others there are good chapters on scolioses, achondroplasia, and also the sacro-iliac joint in adolescents.

It is a pity in some ways that these volumes are so heterogeneous, but they certainly provide an excellent guide to the experience and the views of our French colleagues and are most valuable. J. H. KELLGREN.

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**LIGUE EUROPÉENNE CONTRE LE RHUMATISME**

**GENERAL MEETING, 1957**

A general meeting of the European League against Rheumatism was held under the presidency of Prof. J. Goslings at Toronto on June 23, 1957, in the course of the IX Congress of the International League. The following delegates were present:

- K. Gotsch (Austria), L. Michotte (Belgium), K. Brochner-Mortensen (Denmark), V. Laine (Finland), Jean Debevre (France), A. Evers (Germany), G. Kersley (Great Britain), J. J. de Bécout (Holland), E. Schulhof (Hungary), A. Robecchi (Italy), V. Forbeck (Norway), M. Teixeira (Portugal), P. Barceló (Spain), G. Edström (Sweden), K. Walthard (Switzerland), and A. Strukow and M. Schihow (U.S.S.R.).

The Secretary General reported on the activities of his committee since the 1955 meeting:

1. Bulgaria, Greece, and Roumania were now the only European countries which had not joined the League, and it was hoped that members would continue to work towards bringing them in.
2. It had been decided not to incur the expense of simultaneous translations at meetings, except for papers presented at plenary sessions.
3. A critical review of the European rheumatological literature for the years 1955 and 1956 had been prepared by the French editors, with the help of all the national delegates and the technical assistance of Mme. Bormans.
4. The next European congress would take place at Istanbul from September 18-22, 1959. The organizing committee would consist of:

   **President:** Prof. Nuzhet Sakir Dirisu
   **Vice-President:** Prof. Muharrem Koskal
   **Secretary General:** Assistant Prof. Hami Kocas
   **Secretary:** Assistant Prof. Necati Ari
   **Treasurer:** Dr. Refik Gurer

5. The thanks of the secretariat were due to the retiring president, Prof. J. Goslings, and the vice-presidents, MM. J. Forestier and A. Robecchi, by their efforts.

The Treasurer's report was received and approved. It was decided to seek the aid of the manufacturing chemists in financing the "Critical Review of European Rheumatological Literature", and to publish the review every 4 years.

The following officers were elected for the forthcoming 4-year period:

- **President:** Dr. J. Forestier
- **First Vice-President:** Prof. A. Robecchi
- **Second Vice-President:** Prof. N. S. Dirisu
- **Secretary General:** Prof. L. Michotte
- **Treasurer:** Dr. E. Colinet.
- **Assistant Secretaries:** Dr. A. Jung
- Dr. G. Kersley

The following members of the European League had been elected to the organizing committee of the International League against Rheumatism:

- **Vice-Presidents:** Dr. G. Edström and Dr. W. S. C. Copeman
- **Secretary-Treasurer:** Dr. F. Delbarre
- **Assistant to President:** Dr. Justin Besançon
- **Auditors:** Dr. P. Barceló and Dr. K. Gotsch

**Members of Council:**
- Dr. Lenoch (Czechoslovakia)
- Dr. K. Brochner-Mortensen (Denmark)
- Dr. V. Laine (Finland)
- Dr. Bader (Germany)
- Dr. van der Meer (Holland)
- Dr. Richter (Hungary)
- Dr. T. Lucchini (Italy)
- Dr. V. Forbeck (Norway)
- Dr. M. Teixeira (Portugal)
LIGUE EUROPÉENNE CONTRE LE RHUMATISME

Dr. A. Boni (Switzerland)
Dr. N. S. Diriş (Turkey)
Dr. Nesterov (U.S.S.R.)

A proposal by the delegate from Portugal to set up under the auspices of the World Health Organization a commission to draw up an international plan for the study of chronic rheumatism was accepted for submission to the Council of the International League.

Since it had been observed that the European League was carrying a disproportionately heavy share of the financial burden of subscriptions to the International League, it had been decided, after consulting the Secretary Treasurer of the International League, that the annual subscription of each continental League should be $250 and that any national association not yet a member of a continental league should subscribe $18.20 annually.

REPORTS

The following brief reports were presented by the national delegates:

AUSTRIA

Since the Congress at Scheveningen, the Austrian League had succeeded in obtaining the active co-operation of the Ministry of Social Administration, as the competent authority for Health matters, in setting up a commission of inquiry, and a successful scientific conference had been held jointly with the German League for Rheumatism Research.

Statistics had been compiled concerning the annual incidence of rheumatism and the losses caused thereby, which would enable the health authorities to convince the Government that generous measures were necessary to prevent the distress and heavy losses caused by rheumatic disease.

BELGIUM

Since the Congress in 1955, a national organization to assist sufferers from the rheumatic diseases had been inaugurated. An inquiry was in progress into the incidence of acute rheumatism in different scholastic organizations.

Two new chairs of rheumatology had been founded, one at the University of Liège and one at the University of Brussels.

Rheumatology had been recognized as an independent medical specialty on the same footing as other specialties.

DENMARK

Many scientific meetings had been held, partly in collaboration with the Swedish Society. In collaboration with the other Scandinavian countries, a new journal, Acta Rheumatologica Scandinavica, had been started under the editorship of Dr. G. Edström.

The Danish Association of Rheumatology had supplied funds for research, and a new hospital for rheumatic patients had been built, making a total of four. Two special departments were planned in the medical schools; undergraduate teaching was given at present by the professors of internal medicine and by two lecturers in rheumatology and physical medicine.

FINLAND

A legislative measure recently passed by the Government provided vocational re-education for persons disabled by rheumatoid arthritis. The various associations in Finland for combating the rheumatic diseases were arranged to collaborate more closely, and three more out-patient clinics had been opened, bringing the total to fifteen.

The University of Turku had accepted the proposal to appoint a lecturer in rheumatology, but the post had not yet been filled.

FRANCE

The French League had been particularly active during the past two years. The monthly scientific meetings were always attended by more than two hundred people, and several additional meetings had been organized.

The annual meeting in 1957 had been devoted to biologic tests in rheumatic diseases, and was attended by doctors from various specialties, especially biologists.

The composition of the league being reorganized, and a social section had been created whose principal task would be the establishment of centres for re-education and rehabilitation in the large industrial communities. The teaching of rheumatology was taking a greater place in the universities. Postgraduate courses were being organized, chairs of rheumatology had been established at Montpellier and Lille universities, and professeurs agrégés had been nominated at Paris and Tours.

GERMANY

In September, 1956, a joint meeting with the Austrian League against Rheumatism had been held at Graz, and conferences covering various aspects of rheumatology had been held at Aachen, Kreuznach, Schlangenbad, and other places.

Improvements in disability pensions came as a boon to those with rheumatic diseases; the average age at which pensions were awarded had risen from 55-3 to 56-5 years, and the number of persons receiving pensions on account of rheumatism had fallen, but rheumatism was given as the cause of disability in 9 per cent. of cases. The numbers treated for rheumatism increased from 11,962 in 1953 to 21,172 in 1955. Loss of work because of rheumatism amounted to 9-2 million working days in 1955, and affected 27,000 people during the year, fifty million Deutsche Marks being paid in sickness benefit.
GREAT BRITAIN

Rheumatology had progressed steadily in the last 2 years, and all the members of the Heberden Society were now members of the British Branch of the European League.

A new chair in rheumatology was being established at the University of London. The Empire Rheumatism Council, in conjunction with the Wellcome Trust, had established a field research unit, including a mobile laboratory and X-ray department.

HOLLAND

The Third European Congress of the European League, held at Scheveningen in 1955, had been organized by the Dutch society, who were happy to know that about 600 active congress members returned home quite satisfied. The proceedings had recently been published under the title of "Contemporary Rheumatology". The training of future rheumatologists had been studied by a special committee, who had laid down that at least 2 years’ special training was desirable.

At the Scheveningen Congress Dr. J. van Bremen announced the formation of ISRAD, a Society for the "International Study of the Rheumatic Diseases". It was proposed to organize a round-table conference every 2 or 3 years to bring together a small number of investigators of different nationalities.

New hospitals for the rheumatic diseases were to be built at the Universities of Nijmegen and Gröningen, and it was hoped to hold joint meetings every year with the Belgian League in Belgium or in Holland.

HUNGARY

The National Institute of Balneology and Rheumatology, of 1,000 beds, in the premises of the Lukas and Csaszar Baths, Budapest, included a central research institute. Four hospitals for the treatment of locomotor disorders and three climatic sanatoria were financed by the Ministry of Health. Treatment for ambulatory patients was given at polyclinics throughout the country.

The League against Rheumatism gave expert support to these institutions, and organized scientific meetings, congresses, and refresher courses. Like the other medical associations, the League was an independent group in the Medical Trade Union, with a separate secretariat and administrative board, financed by the Union.

In 1955, the League had decided to compile a bibliography of the post-war literature, and to publish modern textbooks. This bibliography listed all works published since 1910.

A small book for general practitioners appeared in 1955 and a larger work for specialists in 1956.

A series of courses, including training in practical hospital work, was started in 1955, with prominent members of the League as lecturers, and more than forty doctors had qualified as specialists. A Research Committee was concerned with the development of independent serological, biochemical, and radioactive isotope divisions within the framework of the Central Research Laboratory.

The Administrative Board was starting the publication of a special scientific review, the first issue of which was expected to appear in January, 1958.

ITALY

The Italian Society of Rheumatology had concentrated on interesting the public welfare departments in the problem of rheumatism.

Study and research had been encouraged by the establishment of competitions, and the Acqui Prize would be awarded for the third time in 1957. University courses were organized for students and specialists, and a national congress was held annually.

The number of rheumatism centres and university and hospital clinics has increased, and systematic inquiries had been carried on in schools and factories to examine the incidence of rheumatic carditis, discover latent disease, and prevent sequelae.

NORWAY

The Norwegian Women’s Public Health Association, which founded the first “Special Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases” in Oslo, with 150 beds, in 1938, had opened a second large Hospital with 120 beds in Haugesund on the west coast of Norway. The average stay in this hospital was about 8 weeks, and Haugesund also had an out-patients’ department.

The rheumatic patients had their own organization, “Norsk Revmatiker Forbund”, which published a quarterly journal, Revmatikeren. This organization had tried to imitate the Canadian idea of home treatment, and six units had been formed in the remote districts with physiotherapists who drove out to treat and re-educate patients who would be unable to travel to the physiotherapy centres.

The medical organization, “The Norwegian Society for Rheumatology”, consisting of about thirty specialists, met in Oslo every 2 months, and was preparing the VII Scandinavian Congress on Rheumatic Diseases to be held in June, 1958, in collaboration with Denmark, Sweden, and Finland.

The medical students at the University in Oslo and Bergen had special courses in the rheumatic diseases and physical medicine.

PORTUGAL

The clinical and social activities of the Portuguese rheumatologists were largely supported by the State. Particular attention was paid to teaching and to the prevention of chronic rheumatism. The Portuguese Institute of Rheumatology had organized a series of lectures to which several European experts had contributed.
Practical postgraduate courses had also been held, the first of which was reserved for doctors working far from the main centres of population, the Institute paid their expenses, and attendance at the course qualified them to come to future meetings as delegates.

Lectures had also been held by the recently-formed rheumatological section of the Institute of Medical Sciences.

Preventive work had expanded since 1952. Whereas the prevention of rheumatic fever was already well-organized in some countries, the prevention of chronic rheumatism was still regarded in many places with some scepticism, the Portuguese Institute therefore presented the following propositions:

1. That a commission of inquiry should be set up by the World Health Organization and the International League against Rheumatism.
2. That the fundamental aetiological and aggravating factors in each country should be studied.
3. That fundamental health rules for the locomotor system to be followed in work, sport, and relaxation, should be made generally known.
4. That Governments and industrial undertakings in each country should be made aware of the medical and social value of a project of this nature.
5. That one of the resolutions to be passed by the Ninth International Congress should be the study and prevention of chronic rheumatism.

SPAIN

A Congress had been held at Malaga, and Rheumatological Weeks had been organized at Barcelona, Madrid, and Valencia. The Government had recognized rheumatology as an independent medical specialty. Courses were to be started at the universities, and a new hospital for rheumatic diseases had been opened at Barcelona.

SWEDEN

The VI Scandinavian Congress of Rheumatology had been held at Lund in August, 1956. Several of the papers were printed in *Acta Rheumatologica Scandinavica*, 3, Fasc. 1.

In April, 1957, a smaller scientific international conference was held at the Karolinska Hospital, Stockholm, in the department of Prof. Nanna Svartz.

The rheumatological department and clinic of the University Hospital at Lund had been rebuilt and enlarged with two new departments of 32 beds each—making a total of 132 beds—better teaching and treatment facilities, and five new scientific laboratories.

A new rheumatological department and clinic of 120 beds had been opened in 1957 at the country hospital of UMCA.

An associate professorship of internal medicine, particularly rheumatology, had been established at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm; the professor was also head of the rheumatological department and clinic, and Dr. B. Olhagen had been appointed as the first holder of the chair.

SWITZERLAND

Rheumatology had been acknowledged, as in Belgium, as a medical specialty by the Federation of Swiss Physicians. A new federal law on rheumatic diseases was projected, so that the Swiss confederation might undertake research work in hospitals.

A clinic with thermal springs was planned at an altitude of 1,400 m. for treating different forms of rheumatic diseases.

Scientific sessions of the Swiss Society of Physical Medicine and Rheumatology were organized each year in Geneva.

U.S.S.R.

In the U.S.S.R. two congresses had been held. At Leningrad the relationship between tonsil infections and rheumatoid arthritis and the prevention of rheumatic disease were studied, and at Moscow the classification of rheumatic disease in children and adults and the pathogenesis and aetiology of rheumatic fever.

The Minister of Health had prepared a paper on the prevention of cardiovascular lesions.

A Research Institute devoted to the study of the pathology and aetiology of the rheumatic diseases had been established at Sotche in 1956, with five clinics, and departments for the study of rheumatic fever, rheumatoid arthritis, cardiac lesions, and nervous symptoms, and a laboratory.

Postgraduate teaching was also carried on there.

The Soviet committee suggested that the International League should be asked to draw up a classification of rheumatic diseases; the Secretary General replied that the International League had already set up a Commission of Nomenclature under Dr. Rosenberg.