

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

THIRD ASSEMBLY

LIGUE INTERNATIONALE CONTRE LE RHUMATISME

At its session on May 18, 1950, the Programme Committee of the W.H.O. adopted the following resolution:

Rheumatic Diseases.—The Programme Committee of the Third World Health Assembly adopts the following resolution:

That the Third World Health Assembly appreciates the importance of the social and economic problems which are a result of the frequency of the rheumatic diseases and decides to:

- (1) RECOMMEND that the Executive Board and the Director-General when determining the programme and budget for 1952, make the appropriate provisions for the establishment of an Expert Committee to deal with the rheumatic diseases and their necessary remedies.
- (2) REFER the suggestions contained in the document A3/Prog/13 to the proposed Expert Committee.
- (3) SUGGEST to the Director-General to assist by all means possible the governments desirous of undertaking the investigations into this problem.

STATEMENT BY PROF. DR. KARL M. WALTHARD, GENEVA,

Representative of the Ligue Internationale contre le Rhumatisme

“On behalf of the Ligue Internationale contre le Rhumatisme I should like to express gratitude to the Danish Government delegation for its proposal to set up an Expert Committee, and to the French Government delegation for its memorandum bringing attention to the grave problems of the rheumatic diseases. It is not my intention here in detail to go into the very intricate consequences of the rheumatic diseases, but I must in particular underline the existence of the very heavy economic burdens which the rheumatic diseases place on the many countries in which a very great number of persons have for many years past been invalidated by these afflictions.

“The Ligue Internationale contre le Rhumatisme endeavours to co-ordinate the total scientific efforts to combat the rheumatic diseases, but it is important in order to achieve this object to obtain the aid of the World Health Organization.”

A3/Prog/5 and 13

Session, May 18, 1950, 4.15 p.m.

LIGUE EUROPÉENNE CONTRE LE RHUMATISME

EXTRACT FROM THE DIRECTORY OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS

2. *Address:* Headquarters of the Secretariat: St. Strandstraede 19, Copenhagen K, Denmark.
3. *Nature:* Non-governmental.

4. *Aims:* To co-ordinate all research and the treatment of rheumatic complaints initiated by scientific and social organizations in the member countries of the Ligue.
5. *Governing Bodies:* The supreme authority of the Ligue is the Council, which elects the president of the Ligue Européenne and two vice-presidents. The president is appointed for two years and is not eligible for re-election. The officers consist of the president of the European League and former president, the two vice-presidents and members of the secretariat-general, in addition to the president and secretary-treasurer of the Ligue Internationale contre le Rhumatisme.
Officers: President: Dr. W. S. C. Copeman (U.K.); 1st Vice-President: Dr. M. Ferond (Belgium); 2nd Vice-President: Dr. Pedro Barcelo (Spain); Past-President: Dr. Mathieu Pierre-Weil (France); Secretary-General: Professor Gunnar Edström (Sweden); Treasurer: Mr. Ove de Bornemann (Denmark); Secretary: Dr. K. Kalbak (Denmark); President of Ligue Internationale contre le Rhumatisme: Professor Dr. E. Jarlöv (Denmark); Secretary-Treasurer to Ligue Internationale: Dr. W. S. Tegner (U.K.).
6. *Members:* Each member country elects and delegates one representative and one deputy representative to the Ligue. They are appointed for a term of four years and are eligible for immediate re-election. The following countries are members: Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Eire, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia.
9. *Finances:* A percentage of the total annual subscriptions is paid to the Ligue Internationale contre le Rhumatisme.
10. *Meetings:* General meetings of the Council are convened at least once every two years.
12. *Publications:* The Ligue has concluded an arrangement with the *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1, U.K., and this journal serves as the official organ of the Ligue.
13. *Relations with Other International Organizations:* The Ligue Européenne contre le Rhumatisme is a section of the Ligue Internationale contre le Rhumatisme.
14. *Short History:* Congress at Copenhagen and Aarhus in September, 1947.
16. *Comments:* Next European Congress will be held at Barcelona in September, 1951.

SECOND CONGRESS, 1951

The second Congress of the Ligue Européenne contre le Rhumatisme will be held in Barcelona, Spain, from September 24-27, 1951, when the Sociedad Española de Reumatismo will act as host.

The following subjects will be discussed:

Non-articular Rheumatism.
Effects of Pituitary and Adrenal Cortex Hormones in Rheumatic Disease.
Ultrasonic Therapy.
Ankylosing Spondylitis.
Brucellar Rheumatism.

W. S. C. COPEMAN, *President*.
GUNNAR EDSTRÖM, *Secretary-General*.

London, July 24, 1950.

LIGUE BELGE CONTRE LE RHUMATISME

A letter received from the Secretary with a copy of a statement issued to the Belgian press is given below (in translation):

Liège. June 25, 1950.

To the Editor of the *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*.

DEAR SIR,

We beg to enclose for your information a copy of a notice recently published in the Belgian press by the Belgian League against Rheumatism.

Yours faithfully,

M. ORY (*Secretary*).

The Belgian League against Rheumatism, having studied the work of foreign research and the observations of its own members on the action of the combination of desoxy-corticosterone and vitamin C upon rheumatoid arthritis, asserts that this combination, as contrasted with cortisone, Compound F, and ACTH (adrenocorticotrophic hormone), has no significant effect upon this disease.

Having regard to the present impossibility of obtaining supplies of cortisone, Compound F, and ACTH, the League warns practitioners against the use of any new steroid the properties of which have not been tested according to the standards of the International League against Rheumatism.

SOCIETÀ ITALIANA PER LO STUDIO DEL REUMATISMO

The Congress of the Italian Society for the Study of Rheumatism and the Campaign against Rheumatic Diseases, took place at Salsomaggiore on June 19, 1950.

Prof. Giuseppe Sabatini, Director of the Clinical Hospital, University of Genoa, was appointed President by the managing board of the Society.

The next Congress will take place in Naples in conjunction with the Italian Cardio-logical Society.

CANADIAN RHEUMATISM ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS FOR 1950-51

The Executive of the Canadian Rheumatism Association for the period June, 1950 to June, 1951, will be constituted as follows:

<i>Past President:</i>	Dr. A. W. Bagnall, 832 Medical-Dental Building, Vancouver, B.C., Canada.
<i>President:</i>	Dr. Henry P. Wright, 4080 Highland Avenue, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
<i>First Vice-President:</i>	Dr. W. S. Barnhart, 104 Medical Arts Building, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
<i>Second Vice-President:</i>	Dr. Henry Moyse, Summerside, P.E.I., Canada.
<i>Secretary-Treasurer:</i>	Dr. Donald C. Graham, Suite 700, Medical Arts Building, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.