

Impressions

The general arrangements of the Congress and its smooth running were really admirable and Dr. *S. J. de Vries* and particularly Dr. *M. C. Verloop* deserved all the praise showered on them in speeches at the congress dinner. Perhaps some of the sessions were a little long and therefore did not allow sufficient time for discussion, but most participants were satisfied with the scientific side. Although no sensational advances were disclosed, a great deal could be learnt by almost everybody, but after all progress in medicine is made up by many small steps. Not all the work presented was new and the reviews of some topics given by those who may with due deference be called seniors were often more of the type given to post-graduate students than addresses to a specialist audience.

Congresses are exercises in foreign languages, said Professor *P. Introzzi*, and this is true of the speaker as well as the listener. Those presenting papers do unfortunately, not always remember to reduce the speed of talking when the congress is an international one and they are well advised not to tax linguistic abilities too much. It is interesting to note, that although the English-speaking countries provided only 22 papers, 50 of 118 speeches were delivered in English. The French speaking countries provided 28 papers, but 47 of all the speeches were given in French. German-speaking countries also produced 28 papers, but there were only 21 speeches in German. Lantern slides and other means of projecting tables and figures on to a large screen are admirable ways of presenting material but those using visual aids should have pity on those who are straining their eyes in efforts, alas often in vain, to read extensive tables or diagrams. To have the lantern switched on and off repeatedly does not allow the eye to accommodate to darkness and is very trying. Much, one feels, can be learnt from the mistakes committed by others and this, one hopes, improves one's own technique of lecturing. Papers read word for word from a prepared script are rarely well given and in any case make the audience wonder if the speaker really does know his subject, but honest work delivered forthrightly in any language leaves a lasting good impression and is remembered much longer.

Nevertheless, all those assembled in Amsterdam, city of flowers and canals, enjoyed the social and scientific sides of a successful congress and are grateful to the Dutch for their hearty and generous hospitality. E. Neumark, London.

Libri

W. E. Jancik und *P. Speiser*: **Zahlenwerte über die Wahrscheinlichkeit von Vaterschaftsausschlüssen bei Kenntnis erblicher Blutkörperchenmerkmale von Mutter und Kind.** Springer-Verlag, Wien 1952. III + 27 Seiten. sFr. 4.30.

Ein Büchlein für Serologen, Gerichtsmediziner und Juristen, wo die Begutachter sofort die Wahrscheinlichkeit eines Vaterschaftsausschlusses ersehen können. In Form von Tabellen sind alle Möglichkeiten berücksichtigt worden, die für die Blutgruppensysteme OAB, MN, CDE und KP in Frage kommen. Außer den Zahlenwerten sind auch die maximalen Fehlergrenzen berechnet worden. Wenn auch «die Wahrscheinlichkeiten eines Vaterschaftsausschlusses bei Kenntnis der Blutgruppe und einiger Blutfaktoren von Mutter und Kind unter Zugrundelegung der Frequenz der Blutgruppen und Blutfaktoren in der *Wiener* Bevölkerung berechnet» wurden, werden sie wohl auch in Westeuropa Anwendung finden können. Das Büchlein kann jedem Begutachter in Vaterschaftsfragen wärmstens empfohlen werden. S. Seidenberg, Basel.