

A REVIEW OF THE 1961 MEDICAL CONGRESS

H. O. HOFMEYR, *Cape Town*

The President, Mr. Currie

To the observant and receptive participant, the Medical Congress of 1961 is vastly removed in time and circumstance from its predecessor—the Cape Town Medical Congress of 1949. At that time traces of the atomic fallout at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in great dilution it is true, were still drifting down on a staunch unit of the British Commonwealth of Nations—the Union of South Africa. Today we look out from a newly-born Republic on the space age. From the UCT campus, on many a clear night, students have caught glimpses of ten or more man-made satellites in their courses through the heavens. Lately these satellites have been vehicles for daring earth-circling men. The 1961 Congress venue is therefore no longer an isolated point at the shank end of Africa.

The rustic beauty and academic calm of the University of Cape Town have been disturbed by road-makers, and the 1961 Congress-goer was aware of the march of progress in the distant roar of the bulldozer in his ears and the heavy vibrations of the caterpillar tractors that assailed his feet. In addition, the dull thud of a huge steel ball in the distance told him that the old Varsity wall was being bashed to pieces—the new Cape super-highways have caught up with Congress. The old brigade

are distraught, but the new town-planners point out that the passing motorist will no longer skirt the UCT in a donga, but speed by on a modern highway that will allow an inspiring view of the venerable pile.

The inveterate Congress-goer could look out from the Congress venue on a new Cape Town against the old blue backdrop of the Hottentots Holland mountains. A modern airport, in the middle distance, can jet-propel him to London in daylight from the vicinity of Congress. Super highways snake past the huge water coolers of a new power station on the way to this airport. The new Red Cross War Memorial Childrens' Hospital in the distance televised heart operations to Congress in the new Science Lecture Theatre during the week. On the slopes of the distant Tygerberg the square pile of the new Karl Bremer Hospital is spawning a medical school for the University of Stellenbosch, whose keen young 'dosente' were with us delivering their research 'referate' at the 1961 Congress. A new intervarsity spirit has invaded the two medical schools, and healthy competition is raising the standards of research and teaching.

To the left, great new roofs indicate the new medical library, and nearer still the medical research block—UCT's most recent contributions to the needs of modern medicine.

Groote Schuur Hospital, not to be outdone, has just blossomed out with a modern maternity block. I heard an old graduate say 'The old place ain't what it used to be, and I doubt if I could pass if I were up for my finals today'.

Unseen, but nevertheless a very real change in the view from Congress venue, is the presence of new



Die Vice-President, Dr. Coetzee

service clubs in the Mother City. The latest Federal Council has a Rotary membership of more than one third, which seems to be a record. During Congress week they visited the 7 new clubs in Cape Town, all of which have been spawned by the 36-year-old mother club since our last Congress in 1949. In addition, as many Lion and Round Table service clubs have been created in the same area. The fortunate doctor, who is invited to become a member of a service club,



Congress Venue: University of Cape Town.



Photo: Hausmann

Congress Photograph

experiences a regular and happy release from the narrow confines of the sickroom. Among a cross-section of leaders in the community he finds a guarantee for a happy and constructive old age in the warm fellowship of a group dedicated to service to their entire community in all its phases—from the cradle to the grave. The medical profession is peculiarly alive to what the real needs of the community are, and can thus be of very great service in providing assistance where it is most needed.

THE CONGRESS BROCHURES

The pride and joy of the organizing committee of a great Congress are its brochures. This Congress was no exception, and the brochures reflect the skill of the Brochures and Publications Committee and their very willing and expert proof readers.

The big programme brochure, with its 154 pages, is especially impressive. It starts off in grand style with a ringing message from the State President: 'Die dienste van die verlede en die steeds verbeterende tegniese vaardigheid en kennis verskaf ons die versekering van puik mediese versorging in die toekoms'.

The President of Congress, in his message, struck a new note: 'This is the first South African Medical Congress at which televised operations and demonstrations in colour on a large screen have been presented. They should certainly attract large numbers of people without depleting the attendance at other sessions. I hope earnestly that the Cape will do its best for you. Given good weather conditions the Peninsula can now be at its most beautiful, and you will find refreshment from your labours in the social and sporting engagements provided by the organizers'.

Die boodskap van die Vise-president van die Kongres was ook merkwaardig. Hy het onder andere gesê: "Ten tye van die opening van die nuwe Effektebeurs-gebou in Johannesburg het besoekende beurshoofde van Brittanje en verskeie vastelandse nasies o.a. verklaar: 'Ons oë het oopgegaan; na 'n kort verblyf in Suid-Afrika moes ons ons opvatting omtrent julle land radikaal verander. Suid-Afrika is 'n beleggingsveld met groot moontlikhede'. Ons spreek die hoop uit dat ons oorsese gaste, na 'n vrugbare besoek in ons land, dieselfde opvatting sal huldig as die besoekende beurshoofde."

The brochure then goes on to list 13 distinguished guests, among others, Dr. Ian D. Grant, Chairman of the Council of the British Medical Association, Dr. Derek P. Stevenson, Secretary of the British Medical Association, and Dr. Hagar Hethrington, of the Canadian Medical Association. Other representatives came from Germany, France, the United States, Israel and one from Kampala, Uganda.

The next item listed the 12 committees which were necessary to run Congress; their serving members numbered 70 men, 40 women, and 30 final-year medical students.

The Scientific Committee reported that 18 sectional meetings would continue throughout the week excepting during the plenary sessions. The growth of Groups within the Medical Association of South Africa is reflected by the fact that during Congress week 25 National Groups of doctors held their annual general meetings. I can remember a pre-war Congress when there were only 2 or 3. The most envied group were the Railway Medical Officers who had a twilight session on the slopes of Tamboerskloof.

The programme also reminded us that other groups were meeting during Congress, ranging from a group on alcoholism to that on unmarried motherhood.

Television, the glamour-girl of Congress, had a programme all to herself, which indicated the specific times at which programmes could be viewed in the New Science Lecture Theatre.

Lastly, the big brochure listed the commercial exhibits which occupied the entire Jameson Hall and the lower sports hall.

The 58 scientific exhibits and the 55 scientific films sported their own brochure which reported the fulfilment of a dream.

Congress photograph: Front, l. to r.: Drs. L. M. Marchand, P. D. Combrink, A. L. Agranat, A. Landau, A. W. S. Sichel, D. P. Marais, R. D. H. Baigrie, H. O. Hofmeyr, A. P. Blignault, A. H. Tonkin, R. L. Retief, J. Roux, J. C. Coetzee, J. A. Currie, E. W. Turton, Prof. M. Rachmillewitz, Dr. A. Goldberg, Prof. B. Bromilow-Downing, Drs. H. Hethrington, G. S. Muller Botha, T. Shadick Higgins, P. F. H. Wagner, G. J. Rees, and Prof. H. Grant-Whyte.

In 1949, the then chairman of the scientific exhibits expressed the ambitious hope that one day the scientific exhibits would outnumber the commercial exhibits. He felt that in this way it would be proved to the medical profession that the scientific exhibits had really 'arrived'. At this Congress his dream came true for the first time in the history of the Association.

Another handy little brochure was the Congress Pocket Diary, a guide to the daily scientific sessions in various parts of the Congress venue.

A very colourful brochure proclaimed the fact that the doctors' hobbies was still a very special feature of Congress.

The attractive folder given to every member who registered, not only contained all of the above, but also maps of various parts of the country and handy leaflets describing most of the tourist attractions in it.

THE OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony was a colourful occasion of academic dress, distinguished visitors, and brilliant orations. After a warm and sincere welcome to all delegates and their wives to Cape Town, by His Worship the Mayor of Cape Town, Councillor A. H. Honikman, Congress was opened by Mr. J. P. Duminy, Principal of the University of Cape Town. In a stirring address he appealed for goodwill and vision to overcome the awesome dangers now facing the world. In closing, he said: 'Of all God's creatures man alone was given the power to guide his own destiny, man alone was given the privilege to recognize and appreciate the rights and freedoms he was created to enjoy; man alone was made the shaper of his own way of living.'

'We see man today in imminent danger of losing these precious things through his apathy, his inertia, his unwillingness to think for himself, and his lack of "guts".'

'You men of medicine have always been in the vanguard of the crusade in keeping mankind ever mindful of these fundamental human issues which I believe to be most worthy and most demanding of our time and attention.'

'We look to you with confidence to use the ample power of your influence to bring the world back to a proper realization of the essential meaning of existence, of the sacredness of life, and of the dignity of man.'

Some of the distinguished visitors and some of the Congress organizers, who were entertained at a cocktail party at Lanzerac, by Rembrandt, on 26 September.

Front row, l. to r.: Dr. G. Jackson Rees; Mrs. E. W. Turton; Mr. S. Liebenberg, Mayor of Stellenbosch; Mrs. J. A. Currie; and Mrs. V. Ferreira, Convener, Ladies Entertainments Committee.

Back row, l. to r.: Dr. A. P. Blignault, Editor, *South African Medical Journal*; Mr. J. A. Currie, President of Congress; Mrs. J. Roux; Dr. J. Roux, Organizing Secretary of Congress; Mr. J. van Reenen; Dr. J. C. Coetzee, Vice-President of Congress; Mr. S. E. Smith; and Dr. L. M. Marchand, Associate Secretary, Medical Association of South Africa.



Dr. D. P. Stevenson, Secretary of the British Medical Association (left); and Dr. I. D. Grant, Chairman of the Council of the BMA, who were among the distinguished visitors from overseas.

In his presidential address Mr. J. A. Currie reaffirmed the old medical truism that the general practitioner is the backbone of the medical profession. He is the man who should be specially chosen and who should be specially educated for his task. It cannot be emphasized enough that doctors are members of a learned profession and must always stay that way. It is most desirable that a doctor should be thoroughly bilingual and that he should also be a master of one of the Bantu languages which is in most common use in his own area.

Specialists today are playing a much greater rôle in surgery but, according to the President, it would be wrong for a young man to qualify without ever having done an emergency opera-



tion. In spite of modern transport there are still country areas where it is absolutely essential that doctors should be able to perform such an operation. He praised the founding in recent years of the College of General Practitioners in South Africa. This body will seek to promote high ethical standards among general practitioners and to provide high standards of postgraduate medical education for them. Special facilities will be



Dr. J. H. Struthers, of Pretoria, Past Chairman of Federal Council, to whom the award of the Association's Gold Medal was made for distinguished services to the profession.

created for postgraduate work and research in general practice. Students will be prepared for practice in general practice courses at the medical schools at the various universities.

During the evening various medals of the Medical Association of South Africa were awarded. The Association's silver medal was presented to Prof. J. F. Brock, of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Cape Town, for his distinguished services to medical science and humanity. The Association's gold medal for distinguished service to the medical profession was presented to Dr. J. H. Struthers, of Pretoria, a Past President of the Association. Three bronze medals for meritorious service to the Medical Association of South Africa were awarded to Dr. E. W. Turton, of Boksburg, Chairman of Federal Council; Dr. L. M. Marchand, of Pretoria, Associate Secretary of the Medical Association; and Dr.

Alan Taylor, of Durban. Two Hamilton-Maynard Memorial Medals were awarded—one to Prof. Jannie Louw, of the Department of Surgery, UCT, and the other to Prof. C. E. Lewer Allen, also of the UCT, who has been conducting the remarkable research work in connection with the now world-famous artificial limb.

After the close of the opening ceremony the entire assembly repaired to the Old Drill Hall where many old friendships were renewed at a Mayoral reception.

THE PUBLIC LECTURE

On the Sunday night before Congress the traditional public lecture was delivered in the New Science Lecture Theatre at the UCT by Prof. J. F. Brock,* Professor of Medicine at the University of Cape Town. He posed a question which is becoming daily more and more important, i.e., whether 'a Frankenstein monster of population growth has been created by the advances in medical science, or whether man could control his destiny?'. It would appear that medical science has overreached itself. The application of nutrition and hygiene, together with the advent of the antibiotics and other drugs effective against bacterial parasites, have led to something that can only be called 'a population explosion'. If the rate of population growth of the last few decades is maintained, the present world population of 2.8 billion will be 5 billion by the end of the century and 10 billion in a hundred years' time. The privileged and educated groups have accepted in general that the virtual elimination of infant and child mortality brought a responsibility of family restriction, but the underprivileged, and particularly the illiterate masses, continue to multiply while medical science saves an ever-increasing percentage of their unplanned and often unwanted children.

The development of atomic power was a force for good, but what is bad in this world is that man's emotional and spiritual development and his sense of responsibility are lagging far behind his intellectual achievements.

Before he closed Professor Brock appealed to the general public not to view the general practitioner as a man of declining status. He said 'the good general practitioner is often

* The full text of this lecture is published on p. 945 of this issue of the *Journal*.

more efficient and more worthy of confidence than many immature specialists who, because they wear the blinkers of their speciality, cannot see the whole need of the patient and his family'.

THE PLenary SESSIONS

The opening plenary session on Tuesday morning was appropriately devoted to the 'Care of the aged'. The President indicated that this subject had been chosen for its general interest. In this rapidly filling world of ours the number of people who survive long enough to become old has created a host of problems—sociological as well as medical. Dr. J. H. Sheldon, of Great Britain, an authority on geriatrics, had been specially invited from overseas to lead the discussions.** His inimitable wit and great good humour made him a favourite from the start and got the meeting going on a happy note. All morning speaker followed speaker covering many facets of the problem of the care of the aged. In the afternoon the meeting became a combined one, and several specialties, from anaesthesia to psychiatry, were involved.

On Wednesday morning the second plenary session was devoted to 'Diabetes in Africa'. The speakers drew attention to the high incidence of diabetes among the Natal Indians and the increasing incidence among the Bantu who adopted the European standard of living. After tea the important subject of oral agents came under review. Wednesday afternoon followed the Tuesday pattern in that a combined specialist meeting was followed by a relaxed panel discussion.

Throughout Congress combined meetings were frequently held, and were later on accorded honourable mention by the pleased participants. One of the most popular combined meetings was organized on Thursday morning on 'The diagnosis and treatment of occlusive arterial disease' when the specialties of medicine, surgery, radiology, neurosurgery, and neurology participated.

On Friday morning a similar group combined for a symposium on 'Pleural and pulmonary neoplasia'.

One often heard the wish expressed that the *Journal* of the Medical Association would publish the discussions in detail so that the development of arguments and ideas in debate could be followed.

CONGRESS ENTERTAINMENT

The sports events outlined by the responsible committee and its numerous sub-committees seemed to include all sports from bowls to tug trips, and most conveners were called upon to do their stuff. While the men were sweating it out in the combined meetings and scientific sections, their wives were exceptionally well catered for by those two dedicated bodies: the Ladies Entertainments Committee and Transport Committee.

Although it is invidious to mention names, one cannot help but quote from the admirable and very revealing report of the convener of the Ladies Entertainments Committee, Mrs. Vivia Ferreira:

Monday, 25 September

1. Excursion to Enterprise Bakery (35). After tea and a present of a tin of biscuits one woman said: 'I have a new respect for bread'.

2. Visit to Service Products (sheltered employment) (20). 'An eye-opener'.

Tuesday, 26 September

1. Visit to Electronic Brain at S.A. Mutual (15). A lone male doctor remarked 'Should have been a must for all the men'. Some ladies wondered if it might not have been too advanced for them?

** Dr. Sheldon's paper is published on p. 935 of this issue of the *Journal*.



Prof. J. F. Brock, of Cape Town, to whom the award of the Association's Silver Medal was made for distinguished services to medical science and humanity.

2. Mannequin parade at Clifton Hotel (300). According to the Press: 'The most outstanding show yet seen in South Africa!'

Wednesday, 27 September

1. To Castle and William Fehr collection (41). Personally conducted by Mr. Fehr.

2. Lutheran Church and Koopmans de Wet Museum, Strand Street (20). 'Interest so great that tea was neglected!'

Thursday, 28 September

1. Sports arranged: no tennis players, no bowlers—only a few golfers.

2. Drive to Protea Heights, Stellenbosch, with picnic tea (48). 'Brisk buying and ordering from nurseries'.

3. Drive to Vergelegen, Somerset West, and tea on lawn (32). Personally conducted tour by owners, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson.

4. Drive to K.W.V. cellars at Paarl (55). 'No tea, but sherry-tasting at 4 p.m. helped to whet appetites for Congress Banquet'.

Friday, 29 September

1. Drive to Groot Constantia and tea at Constantia Nek (16).

2. Drive to Kirstenbosch and tea in Gardens (32).

Grand total: 614 women were entertained of whom 450 were visitors to Cape Town.

300 welcome parcels were distributed.

Bravo ladies! We doff our hats in admiration.

CONGRESS BALL

As on the eve of Waterloo 'there was a sound of revelry by night' as the City Hall was thronged by all available gallants (medical) and their lovely ladies—565 in all. The old hall came to life with an infusion of 1,200 arums, dozens of white watonias, carnations, snapdragons, and geraniums. Nostalgic memories were revived by the painted shields of the teaching hospitals and overseas medical schools hung on the panelled walls. The soft glow of the red candles on the white tablecloths added beauty to beauty, to torture anew the cockles of the manly myocardium. Nearby the very knowledgeable ACVV ladies were waiting with their masterpieces of gastronomy, real home-cooked goodies. Harold Cobb, straight from Caltex Kaskenades on the previous night, provided the rhythm and the precious opportunities to return again and again to the heavily laden tables.

CONGRESS BANQUET

Congress Banquet, in the Weizmann Hall on Thursday night, will live long in the memory of the 500 participants for its brilliance, witty speeches, outstanding nutriment, and lubrication—truly South African—of the finest vintage.

The wines were matched by the sparkling addresses of not only the leaders of the English contingent, but also of our versatile President and the inimitable 'Baggs' Baigrie.

Dr. Ian Grant, Chairman of the Council of the British Medical Association and guest of honour, demurred at first at having to talk 'on all that food', but relented and congratulated our Association on their success in establishing, in South Africa, the College of General Practitioners. Two years ago he was invited to visit this country to help with the initial spade work. As a past President of the College in England, in existence since 1952, he was able to help build the Cape Faculty on a sound basis.

The general public should know that the College's function is purely academic and is in no way concerned with fees or finance. It seeks to promote high ethical standards among general practitioners and to provide high standards of post-graduate education for them. Facilities will be created for post-graduate work and research in general practice. A student



Fig. 1. Among the members of Congress were Dr. B. M. Clark, Secretary for Health, and Dr. J. H. S. Gear, Director, South African Institute for Medical Research.

Fig. 2. Dr. A. W. S. Sichel, Chairman of the Head Office and Journal Committee of the Association, in conversation with Dr. J. P. de Villiers, previously Medical Officer of Health, Divisional Council of the Cape.

Fig. 3. Dr. J. C. Coetzee, Vice-President of Congress, in cheerful mood at the registration office.

attachment scheme is under way so that final-year medical students will learn about the problems of general practice by first-hand experience. They will also be prepared for practice courses for general practitioners at the university.

The toast of 'our guests' was replied to by Dr. J. H. Sheldon, of Wolverhampton, who reminded his listeners that it was common knowledge that doctors died of the disease they had specialized in. This had caused him considerable anxiety until he resolved to study maternal obesity. Short of a physiological earthquake he had since then felt reasonably safe.

This world-famous authority on geriatrics made highly complimentary remarks about the work of the South African National Council for the Welfare of the Aged. After a professional lifetime devoted to the problems of ageing, he had found something new in South Africa which he was pleased and proud to take back with him to England. He was referring to the script of the play *The Room Upstairs*, produced the day before by Miss Rosalie van der Gucht at a seminar attended by 250 representatives of groups interested in the welfare of the aged.

The play deals with the problems confronting the aged who live in the homes of their children. Dr. Sheldon has such a high regard for the effectiveness of this play that he intends using it in England to further the work for the aged there.

Dr. Sheldon's vast knowledge and enthusiasm has stimulated the founding of a South African Geriatric Society (a sub-group of the Medical Association), which held its inaugural meeting during Congress. This body will study the problems of ageing in all its aspects, and complement the work of existing bodies.

THE COMMERCIAL EXHIBITION

On Monday 25 September, at 9.30 a.m. precisely, our President, Mr. J. A. Currie, accompanied by the officers of the Medical Exhibitors' Association, opened the large exhibition housed in the Jameson Hall and lower sports hall. He complimented the participants on the excellence of their displays and the wide range of their products. He paid tribute to that often unappreciated foot-slogger, the pharmaceutical representative, who so patiently waits on us in our consulting rooms to bring us the latest in drugs and appliances.

Since the Medical Association of South Africa first began holding Congresses, its staunchest supporters have been the commercial exhibitors. Indeed, their financial assistance is an important factor in making Congress possible.

It is always a rewarding experience to visit the many commercial exhibits, since there is always the chance that you will discover some new development that you have missed in your reading.

At the door a friendly representative made sure that I would absorb the official daily recommended dose of vitamins and minerals by offering me a large yellow pill and a slug of water.

Immediately after that we were confronted with the entire history of medical writings in books dating from Hippocrates to the latest 1961 publications. We won our release with an order for a new reference book on modern drugs.

The clever advertiser of a disinfectant entertained us to an instructive display of colour slides illustrating a caesarean section and a forceps delivery.

With beautifully illustrated cards in colour, one firm showed what the human organs look like and how they function.

Next door there was an instrument exhibit where a complicated but slender bronchoscope, used for removal of a monkey-nut from the depths of the lungs in a baby, was shown. Through its telescopic lenses it is possible to look round corners and, to crown everything, to remove a portion of a growth for microscopic examination.

At one exhibit it was possible for golfers to test their putting touch with the added advantage that, if you held out, there was a mechanism to shoot the ball back to you. This was a popular booth and the exhibitors had no difficulty in drawing an enthusiastic audience who queued up to test the apparatus.

After visits to innumerable other booths and loaded down with samples, we staggered out into the open air where a friendly soul waited to dispense the last free prescription — a cold drink and a pill for our aching 'exhibition' feet.

THE SCIENTIFIC EXHIBITS

On Monday at 11 a.m. Dr. Ariel Goldberg, President of the Cape Western Branch of the M.A.S.A., accompanied by the President of Congress, Mr. J. A. Currie, and members of the Scientific Exhibits Committee, conducted the official opening ceremony in the Zoological laboratories.

In his introduction Mr. Currie insisted that Dr. Goldberg emulate Shakespeare's Ariel in *The Tempest*, and perch, not on a 'blossom that hangs on the bough' but on a laboratory desk so that he might be visible to the big crowd of exhibitors and viewers.

Dr. Goldberg, in complimenting the Scientific Exhibits Committee on its record-breaking show, said that history was being made there that day in that the total number of exhibits was greater than the number of booths in the commercial exhibition for the first time since medical congresses began in South Africa. It was the realization of an ambition that the present chairman had entertained in 1949 when the first scientific exhibits on a large scale had been introduced. He commended an article in the *South African Medical Journal* of 25 March 1961, which contained succinct information on the construction and layout of a successful exhibit, and hoped it would help to eliminate the tiresome 'stoop, squint and stretch' exhibit.

As was to be expected, the largest number of exhibits were devoted to diseases of the heart and circulation — 10 in all. Ischaemic heart disease occupied a large room on its own, and Dr. Chris Barnard's huge working heart, from the department of experimental surgery, had to be accommodated in the foyer of the New Science Lecture Theatre. Urology, diabetes and pathology had 4, 4 and 6 exhibits respectively. Cancer, orthopaedics, dermatology, surgery, ophthalmology, and child health came next with 2 or 3 exhibits each.

An unusual feature of the 1961 exhibits was the accent on rehabilitation, which produced 9 exhibits. These ranged from alcoholics to the unmarried mother, not to mention the Red Cross, the Civilian Blind Society, occupational therapy of various kinds, physiotherapy, and the celebrated artificial limb of the University of Cape Town.

Dr. Goldberg reminded his audience that there were 2 90-foot-long laboratories full of exhibits, excluding those in the foyer of the New Science Lecture Theatre and at the Medical Library. An important off-shoot of the scientific exhibits was the scientific films (55) that were being shown throughout Congress week in other buildings, namely, in the Geological and architectural departments.

Dr. Goldberg thanked Messrs. Riker Laboratories for producing the Scientific Exhibits Brochure; two Rotarians for invaluable assistance in providing the materials for booth construction at cost; Professor Day for the loan of the Zoological labs; UCT maintenance for the electrical work; the students' committee for actual booth construction; and last, but not least, Messrs. Coca-Cola for the very welcome refreshment provided throughout the week.

The scientific exhibits were undoubtedly an invaluable feature of Congress, filling a long-felt want for consultation-demonstrations on the spot by specialists in their subjects. Often one heard the sentiment expressed 'better than a hundred lectures'.

HOBBIES EXHIBITION

Those who took time off to visit the above were not only amply rewarded, but again convinced that many doctors are past masters at the art of 'loafing creatively', Edward Bok

Fig. 1. Talking in the Students' Union are, from left to right: Dr. W. Lennox Gordon, Cape Town; Dr. F. Daubenton, jr., Johannesburg; Dr. E. W. Turton, Boksburg North (Chairman of Federal Council); Dr. J. W. van der Riet, Bloemfontein; and Dr. H. Penn, Johannesburg.

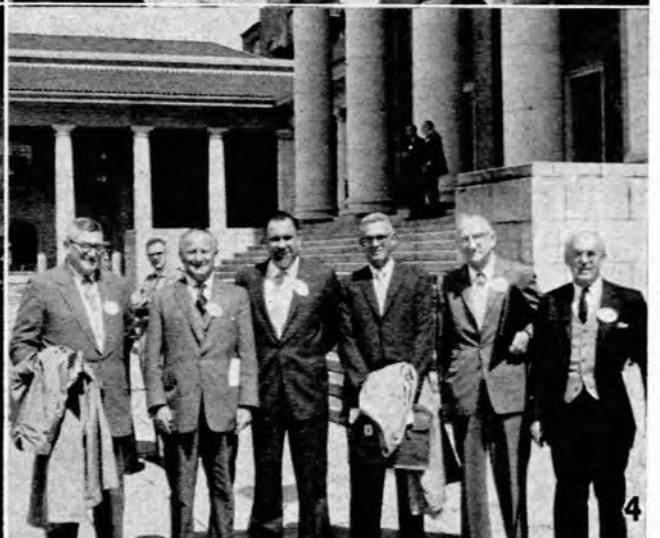
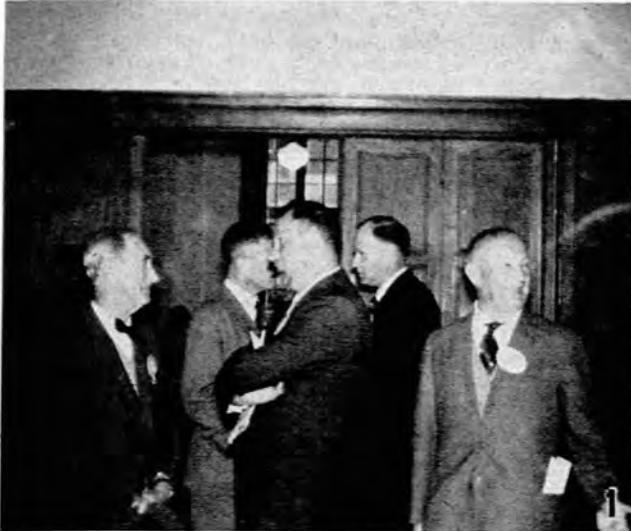
Fig. 2. Members of Congress in the Students' Union during a tea interval.

Fig. 3. Sitting from left to right in the Students' Union: Dr. J. W. van der Riet, Bloemfontein; Prof. B. Bromilow-Downing, Cape Town (Chairman of the Organizing Committee of Congress); Dr. A. G. Blyth, Ladismith; and Dr. R. J. Smit, Cape Town.

Fig. 4. Members of the Executive Committee of the Railway Medical Officers Group.

Fig. 5. Mrs. H. A. Harbottle and Miss J. Stemmit at the attractive stand of the British Medical Association.

Fig. 6. The Sisters Incorporated exhibit at the Scientific Exhibition. Seen here is Mrs. S. Turner, secretary of this organization.



once called it 'the measure of a man's inner civilization'. These exhibits were no exception in showing that the medical profession as a whole were not a lot of 'dull Jacks', but that had fate willed it otherwise, they would have made their marks in a hundred other spheres.

Prof. T. W. Price of UCT conveyed much of this sentiment in his opening remarks on Monday at 10.15 a.m. That many doctors turn to art in their hard-earned moments of relaxation is shown by the excellent sketches, paintings, and watercolours, as well as plastic work, pewter work, and sculpture.

Out-of-doors there were the colour photographers, the bird watchers, and the boat-builders. Indoors we met the numismatists, the cartoonists, the modellers, the carpenters, the succulent-growers and the serious students of ancient objects, such as the magical Jewish amulets.

As was to be expected, that shell-millionaire and poetic genius, Dr. Morris Cohen, of Durban, stole the show with his fantastic shellcraft collection. He exhibited 80 of the 500 figurines he has created during the past 12 years. *Die Burger* was lyrical about them and described them as a 'Versameling skulpe sonder weerga in die wêreld'.

CONGRESS AND THE PRESS

During Congress week the local newspapers seemed to have had a series of field days and vied with each other to highlight what they considered sensational or newsworthy. Great breadth of interest is indicated by these eye-catching titles:

PROFESSOR WARNS OF 'POPULATION EXPLOSION'
 ATOM WAR MAY COME IN A 'MAD MOMENT'
 DIE KLEUR MAAK DIE PIL
 PASIËNT KAN DOKTER NOG BEKOSTIG, MAAR NIE
 SY VOORSKRIF NIE
 'LUNATIC FRINGE' USING HYPNOSIS, PSYCHIA-
 TRIST WARNS
 SPECIAL CLASSES URGED FOR ADOLESCENTS
 PLANNING POOL FOR HOSPITALS URGED
 TRANSFUSION DIRECTOR ON ERROR MARGIN
 DIE MENSDOM KRIOEL SOOS MIERE
 DOCTORS THOUGHT THEY WERE SEEING THINGS
 (AT THE KHALIFA)
 COLOUR TELEVISION AS TEACHING MEDIUM

RADIO

A feature of Congress that was much appreciated was the broadcasting every evening of a short popular summary, in English and Afrikaans, of the highlights of Congress by a member of the organizing committee.

IN CONCLUSION

On pausing to reflect, it will be obvious that the total hours of Congress were more than matched by the hours spent in committee by the organizers during the previous 15 months. The experience Congress-goer may justifiably wonder whether our newer colleagues have any real conception of the extraordinary effort Congress has cost the local men, whose dedicated enthusiasm for medicine has caused a handful of doctors to bring this huge operation into efficient being. Stacks of files in the Congress office bear witness to the endless letter writing of the past year and countless notations to the myriads of telephone calls.

The selfless devotion of the Congress office staff, backed up by the experienced cooperation — at all times made freely available — of the Medical Association, especially in its secretarial, editorial, and business divisions, if publicized, would make us the envy of most other South African professional bodies. Add to this the unobtrusive but very essential services provided by the Ladies Entertainments Committee, the Transport Committees and the Medical Students Committee, and you have a formidable and impressive total of man-hours that must easily exceed the man-hours spent at Congress by our more than 1,000 registrants.

The Congress Committee, on completion of its allotted task, does not look for bouquets. Its members find a peculiarly rewarding satisfaction in the seeds it has sown for professional goodwill and understanding and the feeling that there can hardly be a participant who will not reap the fruits of its blossoming success.

It would be impossible to evaluate the total of the sum of spheres of good fellowship created at Congress and the radii of interest that will accrue to all who took part. The hosts harbour the fond hope that the impact of their newly-won knowledge and friendships will be felt, not only in their local professional relationships, but also in their medical societies.