

NOTES AND NEWS

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS IN VIENNA

The First International Congress on Prosthetics Techniques and Functional Rehabilitation was held at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna, March 19-24, 1973. The Congress was sponsored by the World Veterans Federation in cooperation with the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics and the Vienna Medical Academy. Some 700 people from many different countries registered for the program. Participants were privileged to hear many scientific papers, visit a fine array of exhibits, and select from one of four interesting scientific excursions. Simultaneous translations were provided in English, German, French, and Japanese.

Four volumes of the proceedings are available for purchase from Intercongress Werbe Ges.m.b.H., Stadiongasse 6-8, A-1010 Vienna, Austria. Volume 1 is on Amputation Techniques; Volume 2 covers Techniques of Orthopedic Corrections: Protheses and Orthoses; Volume 3, Functional Therapeutic Rehabilitation and Ergonomics; and Volume 4, Biomechanics. The cost of a single volume is AS 300 (approx. \$15.00); the cost of all four volumes is AS 1100 (approx. \$55.00).

We are pleased to publish the message sent to the Congress by Dr. Marc J. Musser, Chief Medical Director of the Veterans Administration. He was unable to attend the Congress and his message was read by Dr. Ernest M. Burgess, Principal Investigator of the Seattle Prosthetics Research Study.

"The Administrator of Veterans Affairs in the United States and I send our greetings and extend our sincerest wishes to this distinguished International Congress. We wish those of you here assembled great success in achieving your goals. The fields of prosthetics techniques and functional rehabilitation are also primary concerns in the fulfillment of our mission.

"'Evil, be thou my good' prayed John Milton in Book IV of *Paradise Lost*. That prayer and the answer to it, might well reflect the genesis of this Congress. Among the *evils* of war are disabled veterans. To meet their needs has come the *good*: New knowledge and great advances in the development of methods for restoring their lost or impaired physical functions. We and our colleagues have the opportunity to improve the quality of their lives. The benefits of such research and development

fulfill a country's commitment to its veterans and to those millions of others who nature or the vicissitudes of life have also rendered disabled.

"New knowledge and new techniques in the care and treatment of such people are not confined to a single country. Indeed, through frequent professional congresses such as this, all medical benefits become more quickly available to all people of all countries.

"We of the Department of Medicine and Surgery of the United States Veterans Administration are proud of what our scientists have been able to accomplish in extensive research and development in prosthetics and functional rehabilitation. We are also grateful for the related discoveries and contributions of their colleagues in other countries. And we are particularly pleased that, through these combined efforts, literally thousands of disabled veterans and hundreds of thousands of others have been given the opportunity to live more useful and productive lives.

"I should like to point out the qualities of our agency which have made our contributions to this great work possible. One is that we are a large and integrated total-health-care system consisting of 168 hospitals and 202 clinics. We have a dedicated staff of some 150,000 physicians, dentists, and other health professionals and technical workers who serve some 6,000,000 patients each year. We are the largest such system in the United States. We are funded by a Federal Government with a commitment to render the highest quality of care to disabled veterans of all wars. Extensive funds for research have been made available to enable us to establish facilities and call upon the best qualified people to attack the complex problems in prosthetics and other modes of functional rehabilitation. Because we are a widespread system, research protocols and clinical testing have a broad base, and application of new knowledge and techniques can be made immediately available to all of our patients. Because our system is also becoming increasingly well-integrated with the private sector of American medicine and, indeed, with that of the rest of the world we can share our knowledge and our skills.

"Our participation in cooperative research, widespread education, and patient treatment programs attests to our international involvement, and our presence in this very Congress is evidence of our philosophy and our commitment. Therefore, we are grateful to the World Veterans Federation and the Wiener Medizinische Akademie aided by the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics for organizing the program, from which an ever increasing number of disabled people of the world can profit.

"I am reminded that John Milton, from whom I initially quoted, was blind; that Franklin Delano Roosevelt, our 32nd President, was confined to a wheelchair; that Thomas A. Edison, Alexander Graham



FIGURE 1.—Dr. Ernest M. Burgess of the Seattle Prosthetics Research Study presenting a message from Dr. Marc J. Musser, Chief Medical Director of the Veterans Administration, at the opening session of the Congress.

Bell, and Ludwig von Beethoven were deaf; that Lord Horatio Nelson was an amputee; and that Magellan was lame. What other heroes, leaders, scientists, and great intellects have our efforts helped to foster, and who in the future may also come from the ranks of the disabled to follow in their footsteps?"

COURSE IN LOWER-EXTREMITY PROSTHETICS OFFERED IN BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

A very successful 1-week course in Lower-Extremity Prosthetics was offered in Bogota, Colombia, December 4–9, 1972, by the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics, in cooperation with the Pan American Health Organization and the National Council on Rehabilitation of Colombia. Approximately 30 orthopedists and rehabilitation doctors attended the course, which was organized by Dr. Sidney Fishman, Coordinator of Prosthetics and Orthotics at New York University, in his capacity as Chairman of the Education Committee of ISPO. Three faculty members from the United States—Mr. Norman Berger, Associate Coordinator of Prosthetics and Orthotics at NYU; Mr. Fred Hampton of the Prosthetic-Orthotic Center, Northwestern University Medical

Center; and Gerhard Schmeisser, M.D., of Johns Hopkins University—offered the course with the assistance of local ISPO members.

POSTGRADUATE COURSE ON THE HAND AND UPPER EXTREMITY

A postgraduate course on The Hand and Upper Extremity was sponsored by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons' Committee on Injuries, March 8–10, 1973, in Durham, North Carolina. Doctor J. Leonard Goldner, Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery, Duke University Medical Center, directed the sessions at the Page Auditorium, Duke University.

The course was given to orthopedic surgeons, hand surgeons, general surgeons, plastic surgeons, and residents-in-training in these specialties, as well as interested physical and occupational therapists.

Among the topics discussed were acute trauma, diagnostic studies of the hand, pain syndromes, hand implants, rheumatoid disease, and congenital and developmental problems.

The faculty of 19 included guest lecturers from 12 states and from Canada, as well as members of the Duke University Medical Center faculty.

ROBERT S. BRAY RETIRES AS CHIEF OF THE DIVISION FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

A 37-year career in public service characterized by recognized achievement came to a close with the retirement, on December 11, 1972, of Robert S. Bray, Chief of the Library of Congress Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Mr. Bray has directed the 41-year-old free national library program for the blind and physically handicapped during more than a third of its existence and for almost one-half of his years in the library field. His active concern and creative, concerted effort have helped to stimulate unparalleled growth in the program at all levels—national, State, and local—and caused the adoption of numerous pioneering technological innovations, designed to improve the quantity and quality of the specialized library materials offered. When he became DBPH Chief on May 3, 1957, there were 28 regional libraries in the Nation cooperating with the Library of Congress in distributing braille and recorded books and magazines to an estimated 58,000 blind readers. Upon his leaving the Library, the number of blind and handicapped readers served had increased more than fivefold, to well over 300,000, and the number of cooperating libraries had increased to 51 regional libraries, with 60 local or community public libraries designated as subregional libraries.

In 1957 when he became chief, the division staff numbered 22, and the program operated under a Congressional appropriation of slightly over \$1 million. Today there is a staff of 99 and an annual budget over \$8 million.

The caliber and extent of his efforts for beneficiaries of the program have often been recognized. Mr. Bray is given much of the credit for stimulating the production of more timely reading materials, primarily magazines, for blind and handicapped readers. He has been in the forefront of those urging utilization of reading aids by the visually handicapped.

COURSE ON REHABILITATION OF ADOLESCENT AND YOUNG ADULT

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons sponsored a post-graduate course on Rehabilitation of the Adolescent and Young Adult, May 9-11, 1973, at the Jack Tar Hotel, San Francisco, California.

Dr. R. Kirklin Ashley, Associate Clinical Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of California School of Medicine, directed the 3-day session for the Academy's Committee on Rehabilitation.

Designed for orthopedic surgeons, pediatricians, orthotists, prosthetists, physical and occupational therapists, and graduates of orthopedic physicians-assistants programs, the course covered rehabilitation of the rheumatoid arthritic, adolescent hemophiliac, spinal-cord-injured patients, the amputee, and adolescents with myelomeningocele and other spinal deformities.

The 30-member faculty included lecturers from nine states.

ERRATUM

In BPR 10-18 Fall 1972, on page 144 of the article on "Selection and Application of Knee Mechanisms," a printing error caused part of the information on that page to be blanked out.

The omitted information follows:

3. SWING CONTROLS

A. Flexion resistance:

Constant

Adjustable

Mechanical

B. Extension resistance:

C. Extension aid: Spring

D. Extension stop: Check cord

ELECTIONS TO NAE

The election of 70 American engineers to the National Academy of Engineering was recently announced by Clarence H. Linder, president of the Academy. This addition brings the total membership to 429.

We are pleased to announce that two of the engineers elected have been involved with research programs in prosthetics and sensory aids in the United States. Mr. Hans A. Mauch of the Mauch Laboratories, Inc. has long been engaged in research in artificial limbs and in reading aids for the blind under contract to the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service. His S-N-S hydraulic system for above-knee amputees and his Stereotoner, a portable reading aid for the blind, are significant examples of his contributions. Dr. Robert W. Mann of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has served as a member of the Committee on Prosthetics Research and Development and has been responsible for a number of major developments in prosthetics and in aids for the blind.

The National Academy of Engineering is a private organization established in 1964 to share in the responsibility given the National Academy of Sciences under its Congressional charter of 1863 to advise the Federal Government, upon request, in matters of science and engineering; to sponsor engineering programs aimed at meeting national needs; to encourage engineering research; and to recognize distinguished engineers.

ANNOUNCEMENT

As this issue was about to go to press we learned of the retirements on June 29, 1973, of Dr. Robert E. Stewart, Director, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service, and William M. Bernstock, Assistant Chief, Research and Development Division, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service.

Also effective at the beginning of July 1973 is the resignation of Carol A. Ross, Prosthetics Research and Education Specialist, Research and Development Division, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service. Miss Ross is getting married to Saleem Sheredos, Clinical Engineer for the VA Prosthetic Center. They intend to relocate in the area of VAH Castle Point, N.Y., where Mr. Sheredos is employed.