

## *Anesthesiologie Internationale*

In September 1962 the Third International Congress of Anesthesiology was held in Vienna. To this meeting went many anesthesiologists from the United States, some as participants in the scientific sessions and many others as audience. All were participants in the extensive and elegant social functions.

One wonders if any appreciable share of those attending the conference from the United States were aware of the significance of an International Congress on matters anesthetic in which there were close to 2,000 registrants. Among these registrants were men and women in the field of anesthesia from South America, from Europe, from Africa, from Russia and the Near and Middle East. These dedicated pioneers reflected an astounding growth in the specialty of anesthesia. Fifteen years ago there were only a handful of physicians in these various areas fighting the battle for recognition of their special interest in medicine. These people encountered not only the almost insurmountable domination of many a chief surgeon and the practicalities of economic duress, but decades of apathy and indifference. With persistence and with the assistance of a few enlightened surgeons, some progressive faculties, some farsighted ministers of health, and organizations such as the World Health Organization, this nucleus has developed in an incredibly short time into a substantial core of anesthesiologists with tremendous potential for the advancement of scientific anesthesia.

England, Canada and the United States long have considered themselves to be leaders in the field. This leadership is now being challenged by men and women all over the world. It should have been apparent to those attending the Congress from England, Canada and the United States that contributions of a scientific and practical nature are being made by these pioneers from other countries. The contributions are evident not only in the material presented at a Congress, such as that held in Vienna, but from perusal of the rapidly expanding literature in the field of anesthesia emanating from these countries. Finally, one is impressed with the ubiquity of physicians in anesthesia. It is unlikely for one to travel to any country without being able to contact a fellow anesthesiologist. In such contacts one is frequently favorably impressed with the extent and the quality of both clinical and research facilities.

The next Congress is to be held in Sao Paulo, Brasil, in 1964. Those of us from the United States who plan to attend that Congress had better prepare now to meet strong competition. If progress in other countries continues to be on a logarithmic scale, the challenge for leadership will be a real one. Do not let the Grand Ballrooms of the hotels in Scheveningen, the Hofburg Palaces of Vienna or the Grande Salle of Sao Paulo veil the scientific accomplishments of our fellow anesthesiologists from all over the world.

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