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**Contributors**

Pavy, F. W. 1829-1911.  
Royal College of Surgeons of England

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MEDICINE (INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS  
of 1909).

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COPY of REPORT of F. W. PAVY, Esq., M.D., LL.D., F.R.S.,  
the PRINCIPAL DELEGATE of His Majesty's Government  
to the INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MEDICINE held at  
BUDAPEST from the 29th August to the 4th September,  
1909.

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

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PRINCIPAL DELEGATE of His Majesty's Government to  
the INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MEDICINE held at  
BUDAPEST from the 29th August to the 4th September,  
1909.

To the Right Honourable the Lord President of the  
Privy Council.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour, as the principal Representative of his Majesty's Government at the Sixteenth International Congress of Medicine held at Budapest from August 29th to September 4th, 1909, to present to you the following Report concerning the proceedings of the meeting.

The inauguration was honoured with the presence of His Imperial and Royal Highness the Archduke Joseph as representative of His Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty Francis Joseph I., the Patron of the Congress, and, as a part of the ceremony, I addressed the meeting on behalf of Great Britain and Ireland, and expressed our thanks for the reception accorded to us and our profound hope that benefit to humanity would arise out of the proceedings of the Congress.

The Congress was numerously attended, there being close upon 4,000 members present. Of these, something a little short of 100 consisted of members from Great Britain and Ireland, so that, as far as numbers are concerned, our country was not strongly represented.

Through the satisfactory organisation that had been brought into operation, the work of the Sectional meetings was carried out in an efficient manner, and, as regards character of the work, general opinion is in favour of its having been of good order. To the production of this result our own members may be considered to have contributed their full share of assistance.

Of the official pre-arranged discourses, one was undertaken by our countryman, Dr. Bashford. The subject upon which he lectured was that of cancer, which he illustrated with a large number of lantern slides. His lecture drew a large attendance, and was regarded as constituting one of the successful features of the Congress.

The genesis of our Congress took place at an assemblage in Paris as far back as 1867. Since then the Congress has met in most of the large capitals of Europe, and once in the capital of

the United States. In 1900 it met for a second time in Paris. Asked by the Executive of the last Congress to consider the propriety of again inviting the next Congress to this country, the National Committee for Great Britain and Ireland solicited a vote from all its members on the question. By a very large majority, the voting was in favour of an invitation being given to meet in London. The previous Congress in London was held in the year 1881. Twenty-eight years have therefore elapsed since the former meeting in this country.

As President of the National Committee, I placed myself in communication with His Majesty's Government and obtained its approval of the proposition. With this sanction, and as delegate of His Majesty's Government to the Congress, I conveyed the invitation of the Committee to the assemblage at Budapest, at which, it is permissible for me to say, it met with a very cordial acceptance. It is therefore determined that the next Congress, which has been settled to be held in four years' time, namely, in 1913, is to be located in London.

A matter having an international bearing, but in reality standing outside the purview of the Congress, was deliberated upon at the time of the meeting at Budapest. The matter referred to is one to which the attention of the Privy Council has been previously drawn through the medium of the correspondence that has taken place with His Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin. Sir Edward Goschen was in the first instance approached by the Secretary of a Committee styling itself the "Central Committee for the promotion of Graduate Study of Medicine in Germany," through a letter stating that it was the intention of the Committee, at the time of the meeting of the Budapest Congress, to move the foundation of an International Committee to take cognizance of the matter in question with the view of placing it upon an international basis. His Majesty's Ambassador was asked to seek the representation of the British Government on the International Committee, and, at the request of the Privy Council, I attended as a representative. The establishment of the Committee, after the discussion by the assembled delegates from the different countries, was effected under the title of the "International Committee for Medical Extension Courses," the avowed aim being "to co-operate in all matters pertaining to medical after-college training which may be advanced by such co-operation."

Instruction of the nature referred to is not new in the United Kingdom, and in other countries besides Germany. With us, it falls under the denomination of "Post-graduate Instruction." The step that has been taken is the establishment of an International Committee with definitely framed Statutes to extend the system, now in disconnected operation in different countries, into one placed upon a reciprocating international footing.

Of the two prizes in the hands of the Congress to distribute, the Moscow prize (5,000 francs) was awarded to Professor Hertwig, of Berlin, for his researches upon the subject of Embryology, and the Paris prize (3,000 francs) to Dr. Bordet, of the Pasteur Institute of Brussels, for his serum investigations in relation to Immunisation.

A new departure in connection with the Congress has this year been started which promises to add to its efficiency and its stability. Certain traditional principles have existed to guide the Executive Committees of Congresses, but there has been no direct connecting link between one Congress and another, and it has been left to the Executive of the forthcoming Congress to shape its own method of procedure, which has not always conformed to the general view of the course that should be adopted. To escape from this state of broken continuity, and give a corporate character to the Congress, it has been for some time felt desirable that a permanent body should be established endowed with the power of taking action in certain directions between the Congress meetings. The initiative in connection with the matter was taken by the Executive Committee of the Budapest Congress, and the creation of a "Permanent International Commission" was submitted for consideration. After discussion, the proposition was agreed to, and rules were framed under which its course of action should proceed. It fell to me to be honoured by being appointed President of the Commission, and the Hague was fixed upon as the locality of its Bureau.

(Signed) F. W. PAVY,  
M.D., LL.D., F.R.S.

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