

Remarks in the matter of International Society of Parasitologists

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The scientific progress needs the continuous and immediate exchange of ideas and also the personal contacts between the investigators. So the congresses, conferences and symposiums are more and more frequent. Unfortunately the parasitologists have had up to now no possibility for discussions in their own circle of the world scale, and only partially profited by the congresses of zoologists, of tropical medicine or of the specialists in microbiology - as it was observed in the past years.

One could say that at least from 30 years the parasitology separated itself into a quite independent part of science and this fact becomes once more marked, when we observe its so abundant integral progress in the last years. Parasitology, proceeding from zoology, is more and more penetrating into medicine and veterinary medicine, and is obtaining at long last its most right and due place. Parasitology contains as its subject-matter all the parasites of animal origin, investigates the relations between hosts and parasites, elaborates the profilactic methods and the means of overcoming them. It's no doubt a very difficult science and a very extensive one, needing simultaneously a deep acquaintance of the zoological and biological problems and also a profound knowledge of medicine and veterinary medicine.

Exactly so many problems interest the parasitology, the fact that the parasitologists are working in various and often very different scientific and social institutions, predestinates this branch of human knowledge, more than the others, to carry a motion of creating some form of organisation.

It is our opinion that there's no need to divide the parasitology /dependently on the zoological system of the investigated subjects/ from the protozoology, helminthology and arachnoentomology. Specialities mentioned above will remain and in the future they would divide more and more, nevertheless they must collaborate in the sense of their common matters of interest. More and more frequently we are finding out the coordination existing between the life of protozoan and worms; the specialist of malaria can't overcome the disease without a close collaboration with an entomologist and so does the helminthologist in the case of filariosis. The conditions of work also, are often compelling the investigators to take into consideration the parasites of quite different and distant groups.

The partition into different groups of specialists in zoological parasitology, medicine parasitology and veterinarian parasitology is more and more obliterating. The first investigates the etiological factors producing the facts that interest the other groups, they solve the cycles of life, and nevertheless are interested especially in the parasites of free living animals. They find out very often the biological rules important for all parasitologists. It is beyond question, that the close collaboration between the medicine parasitologists and the veterinarian parasitologists is necessary. The right division is sometimes impossible; for we have no idea now, how to overcome the parasites of man, es-

pecially the antropozoonoses, without the help of veterinarian medicine.

We do think all the specialists of parasitology are the complete body, representing their common speciality, the group of investigators having the same interests, aspirations and aims. So the acceptance of a certain form of organisation, that could help to approach the parasitologists from all countries, seems to be useful and reasonable. One does not exclude the organisation of various sections or more specialised groups of investigators as the helminthologists etc.

In some countries there exist the scientific organisations and societies of the parasitologists. With a deep and kind interest we observe the 36-years old activity of the American Society of Parasitologists, Society of the Parasitologists of Leningrad, the Society of Helminthologists in USSR, the young Society of Parasitologists in Czechoslovakia etc. They play undoubtedly a great part, but their scope is only a limited one.

The activity of the Polish Parasitological Society is similar. The Society exists from 12 years. From a little group of parasitologists, counting itself less than 20 specialists, an organisation of 300 investigators is formed, a quite active and elastic one. In some measure we owe to this society the progress of parasitology in Poland, the greater interest of specialist in related branches of knowledge, the issue of 2 parasitological reviews and the concrete positive results in overcoming the parasites.

During our conferences, organised each two years and gathering all the specialists of parasitology, one had informed all the specialists about the work of other investigators, one had discussed and summarized the whole attainments, one had proposed the main ways of investigations and one had planned greater common actions. In our congresses we met numerous guests from the neighbouring countries, and we discussed often in this occasion the idea of organising the international congress of parasitology. The same idea was discussed also during the conference of Parasitologists of Czechoslovakia in Prague /1956/, the Conference of Hungarian Parasitologists in Budapest /1958/ and at the time of above mentioned international congresses, there were numerous specialists in parasitology present.

We do think the idea of forming the international parasitological society is just sufficiently mature to begin some concrete discussion in this matter. So we will firstly inform our colleagues about existing projects and ask them for critics or supplements in correspondence, questionnaires and articles. The discussion in some greater circle is very desirable, especially among the parasitologists from various countries in occasion of conferences, congresses etc. We are informed about 2 conferences where the parasitologists from other countries will meet /Ist International Conference on Trichinellosis, Warsaw 12/13 IX 1960, and VIIth Congress of the Polish Parasitological Society, Gdansk 11/14 VII 1961/ - and so we propose to discuss there the concrete propositions in this matter.

Assuming an eventuality that most of parasitologists will accord with the project of organising the international society, we suggest to discuss following questions:

I. Calling out the first international organising committee.

## II. Organisation of the 1st International Congress:

1. Choice of a place
2. Settling of a term
3. Admitting of a fundamental structure
4. Elaborating of main purposes of the Society.

I. According to our opinion, as the members of staff in the organising committee must assemble the representatives of existing parasitological societies from various countries, and where no society exists - the best known specialists of parasitology /one or two persons/, the most trustworthy and authoritative ones. The organising committee does not need to be too numerous, as it would make the work more difficult. So it's necessary to settle as soon as possible the place and the staff of the organising committee, that would be able in a short time to begin its actions.

II. The first international congress of parasitologists should devote its greatest interest to the organising problems. Looking forward to eventual difficulties it could be, that the first congress could not gather a great number of parasitologists. But at least all the members of committee and the representatives from the countries should come and meet.

1. The place of the first congress is a quite indifferent question, but we suggest the most convenient would be to organise it in the place of seat of the organising committee. It would be best to organise the first congress in Europe to make possible the arriving of more numerous representatives from the East European countries. We do think that one of the greatest tasks of the Society will be to initiate the collaboration between the parasitologists from East Europe and from Asiatic countries with the specialists from the West.

2. We suggest to organise the 1st International Congress in 1962 /probably in the month of June/.

3. The precise project of the statute of International Parasitological Society will be elaborated by the organising committee and then discussed and eventually acknowledged by the 1st Congress. We think the International Parasitological Society will be a voluntary organisation, gathering all the parasitologists, independently of their origin, country etc., and quite independent from any organisations and institutions local or international. Of course the intimate friendship and close collaboration between the relative societies /as WHO, FAO/ is quite possible and very desirable. The members of the Society can be the parasitologists possessing at least the title of doctor /or an analogue one/ and the reference of a delegate from his own country. In each country there will be the representatives and secretaries elected or chosen in some way.

The number of representatives in each country would depend on number of members of the Society, i.e. for 1 - 20 members: 1 representative, for 20 - 40 members: 2 representatives etc. When the different and very principle questions will be discussed, the decision would depend on voting of the representatives, for on voting of all the congressists could weigh the majority from the country organising the congress or from the countries of nearest neighbourhood, which of course will have more participants. The council of Society and its seat will everytime be chosen during the congress for the next period. They can then take place in various countries.

All members would be obliged to pay their annual fee, i.e. 2 \$\$, or any other money of equal rank, that would form the fundamen-  
ment of activity and financial operation of Society in spite of  
any eventual dotations and endouments from other organisations,  
institutions or private persons.

4. The main purposes of the Society will be the following ones:

a/ Organising, i.e. each 5 years, the international parasitological congresses,

b/ Contribution in developing the collaboration between the parasitologists from the whole world, initiating, supporting and organising the exchange of specialists, investigations, common scientific studies and research works, films etc.,

c/ Maintaining of constant and fixed contacts with relative organisations, international and local of a scientific or general range,

d/ Assuming the protection on the international groups of specialists, there exist the organisations of hydatidologists, specialists in trichinoniasis etc., and the forming of other similar groups is possible. In the case of coming to an understanding the mentioned groups could incorporate into the parasitological society,

e/ Management of the card-index of the members and informing them in the matters of direct contacts, exchanges of films etc.,

f/ Printing out the periodical reviews /the international review in formly fixed languages/, having a character of information and organising problems. It's possible eventually to issue the second review of bibliography and abstracts, for none of existing reviews takes into consideration the whole problems of parasitology, from the whole world.

The Polish Parasitological Society, initiating the organisation of the International Society of Parasitologists, does assume the duty of collecting and working out all the materials, that would appear in discussion and sending them to Organising Committee. The Organising Committee would be created in the way of questionning, correspondence or resolutions received by some greater groups of parasitologists in various countries. So we do ask to send us as soon as possible your opinions to this adress:

Societas Parasitologorum Polona, Wrockaw, C.Norwida 29, Poland.

It's very desirable to collect the opinions as many parasitologists as possible, so we shall be obliged if you could inform the parasitologists you know about our project, as we do not know all their addresses.

The whole results of our action will be published.

Wrockaw, in April 1960.

Prof. Dr Zbigniew Kozar

President of the Polish  
Parasitological Society

Questionnaire  
in the matter of INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PARASITOLOGY

1. Surname, christian names, scientific titles .....
2. Function, institute, full adress .....
3. I am in accordance with the project of creating the Interna-  
tional Society of Parasitology /yea , no/ .....
4. I have the objections as follows .....
5. I propose as a seat of the Organising Committee /a country, ev.  
the persons/ .....
6. I suggest to incorporate into the Organising Committee /repre-  
sentatives of my country, other specialists - surnames/ .....
7. I propose to organise the 1st International Congress in /coun-  
try, institution, persons, time of meeting - year and month of  
Congress/ .....
8. I am in accordance with the directive lines of the organisa -  
tion /yes, no, I declare the following objections/ .....
9. I am in accordance with the general purposes of the Society  
/yes, no, I have objections and remarks as follows/ .....
10. I am ready to help in the matters of organisation etc. ....

.....  
place, date

.....  
signature

We ask very sincerely to propagate this project and questionnaire among the parasitologists you know. We should like to obtain as many answers as possible, the negative ones included, in order to gain the plainest orientation about all views and opinions in the matter of the projected Society. The whole material completed, you shall be informed about the results of all our organising actions

Please adress your kind responses to: Societas Parasitologorum  
Polona, Wrocław, C. Norwida 29, Polska - Poland.