The Ninth Congress of the International Union of Angiology was held in Florence from 3rd to 7th April, 1974. President of the Union: C. R. Mayall (Rio de Janeiro). President of the Congress: F. Pratesi (Florence). Symposia or Round Tables, 26; meetings for communications, 15; papers, 773; participants who enrolled, 2206. Certain symposia were particularly noteworthy for the importance and the number of contributions made.

Symposium on Atherogenesis
Walton (England), using labelled antisera, demonstrated the presence of lipoproteins with particular genetic characteristics in human atherosclerotic lesions: he was able to demonstrate the phenomenon equally in both hyperlipidaemic and normolipidaemic individuals. Gero (Hungary) worked on cholesterol atherosclerosis and adrenaline sclerosis in the rabbit, after injecting labelled β-lipoproteins, he observed the accumulation of these in the tracts of aorta previously injured.

Weber (Italy), who organised and directed the Symposium, illustrated his work on aortic endothelial modification in the course of experimental cholesterol atherogenesis. With the scanning electron microscope he observed the appearance of a veil-like film on the aortic intimal surface; using the transmitting electron microscope and employing concanavalin A, he was able to demonstrate the presence of glycocalix on the endothelial surface: the glycocalix tends to thicken in some zones and to disappear in others; in the impoverished intimal surfaces a deposit of plasma and of corpusculated elements of the blood can be found, which could constitute the initial phase of the atherogenetic process; particular interest is attached to the fact that these phenomena may be inhibited by the administration of cortisone-like drugs. Chernukh (Russia) described correlations between some morphological and functional variations in the hypothalamo-hypophysial system and the intensity of cholesterol atherosclerosis induced experimentally in animals: the data obtained show that endocrine regulatory systems play an important role in the genesis of the atherosclerotic process. Cavallero (Italy) studied the proliferation of the arterial smooth muscle in cholesterol atherosclerosis in the rabbit, and showed that glucocorticoids inhibit and mineral-corticoids or catecholamines increase the proliferation. Jellinek (Hungary) studied the formation of hyaline in the walls of the small arteries consequent upon the insudation of plasma: these phenomena were observed in hypoxia and arterial hypertension. Rannie (England) presented a critical reconsideration of and an experimental contribution to Duguid’s theory of the importance of the deposition of fibrin on the endothelial surface in the atherogenetic process. Tesi (Italy) presented a study with scanning electron microscopy of the intimal surface of human arteries removed from specimens obtained during surgery on subjects with atherosclerotic disease; this is the first study carried out on human pathologic material; a variety of alterations of the arterial surface were found which were characteristic of this disease.
Other important contributions to the subject were made by: Balint (Hungary), Thiele (Germany), Uchida (Japan), Curri (Italy), Hoff (USA), Kadar (Hungary), Loose (Germany), Ritter (Germany), Melchionda (Italy), Kuthan (Switzerland), Danese (USA), Sinzinger (Austria) and Seitanidis (Greece).

Symposia on Neurological Angiology

Three symposia were organised – one was devoted to intracranial haemorrhage, the second to bloodless methods of early and mass diagnosis of cerebral vascular disease and a third to the physiopathology of the cerebral circulation. In the symposium on intracranial haemorrhage, presided over by Lhermitte (France) and Zülch (Germany) and mediated by Fazio (Italy) and Maleci (Italy), subarachnoid haemorrhages were dealt with by Symon (England): these represent 10% of all cases of cerebral apoplexy; in their pathogenesis, aneurysms are of greater importance than angiomas; early operation is necessary; the use of the intraoperatory microscope, controlled ventilation, and the administration of corticosteroids before and after the operation have notably improved results; the main danger to the patient is due to the triggering of vasospasm with consequent ischemia and damage to the blood-brain barrier. Zülch (Germany) tackled the problem of the relationship between arterial hypertension and cerebral haemorrhage: in the hypertensive patient, both massive haemorrhages and cerebral infarct, pericapillary haemorrhages and small necroses diffused in atypical location may be observed; arteriolar-hyalinosis leading to aneurysm-like formations is important in the pathogenesis of these affections. Paillas (France) from a series of 270 patients showed that atherosclerotic alterations are more important than the presence of arterial hypertension in intracerebral hematoma; notable importance may be attached to the existence of vascular malformations.

Lhermitte (France) emphasised the importance of embolism or thrombosis in the pathogenesis of haemorrhagic softening of the brain; he dwelt upon the possibility of a spontaneous resolution by a fibrinolytic type process. The discussion which followed included the problem of the pathogenesis of transitory neurological deficits.

The symposium devoted to bloodless diagnostic methods was of particular relevance. These bloodless methods may be recommended for mass screening and study as they can be employed in the early diagnosis of disease which is desirable for effective prophylaxis. Planiol (France) reported the results of his study on y-angioencephalography, Alvisi (Italy) on echoencephalography, Müller and Gonzales (Switzerland) on ultrasonic analysis utilizing the Doppler effect. Corsi (Italy) reported on an original method, i.e. angioscintigraphy; it is claimed that by injecting radioisotopes into a vein, it is possible to determine the presence, location and extent of cerebral circulatory insufficiency. The method is useful in following changes in cerebral circulatory insufficiency and in its differential diagnosis.

Symposia on Ocular Angiology

The first symposium in this group had, as its theme, arterial and venous occlusions of the retina, with papers by Hayreh (USA), François (Belgium), Shimizu (Japan) and Streiff. The second symposium was devoted to study of the vascularisation of the choroid, with papers by Almaric (France), Babel (Switzerland), Cristini (Italy), Focosi (Italy), Hayreh (USA), Maione (Italy), Moro (Italy) and Shimizu (Japan). Hayreh’s paper was particularly outstanding. This author was able to demonstrate that occlusion of the central artery of the retina produces moderate ischemic retinopathy which rapidly regresses. Analogously, obliteration of the central vein of the retina produces only venous stasis retinopathy, which is not serious and is reversible.
When occlusion of the central vein of the retina occurs in association with arterial circulatory insufficiency, the consequences are serious and result in a red infarct of the retina or haemorrhagic retinopathy, which is a progressive course and practically never reverses.

Symposia on Surgical Therapy

The Proceedings of the Congress will be published as Supplementary Numbers of ‘Minerva Cardioangiologica’ by ‘Centro Minerva Medica’, Rome.

During the Congress F. Pratesi (Italy) was nominated President of the International Union of Angiology for the next two years, and it was decided that the Tenth International Congress of Angiology would take place in Tokyo, from 30th August to 3rd September, 1976. For information write to: Koichi Ishikawa, University of Tokyo, Faculty of Medicine, 7/3 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo (Japan).