News Items – Nouvelles – Nachrichten

Lasker Awards
Professor Michael Heidelberger (New York) has been awarded one of the “Lasker Awards” of 1953 for “decisive contributions to mankind in developing a new subscience, the precise measuring tool of immunochemistry”.

Deutsche Pharmakologische Gesellschaft
Professor Rolf Meier, Direktor der Biologischen Abteilung der Giba AG., Basel, wurde zum Ehrenmitglied der Gesellschaft ernannt. Die Verehrung dieser hohen Auszeichnung, die nur selten ausländischen Forschern zuerkannt wird, erfolgte im Hinblick auf die großen Verdienste um die Entwicklung der Pharma-kologie, die Prof. Meier erworben hat. Prof. Meier ist Contributing Editor der International Archives of Allergy and Applied Immunology und Mitglied der Founders Group des Collegium Internationale Allergologicum.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Allergieforschung

Italian Allergy Society
The Society elected the following officers: Honorary President: Professor C. Frugoni, Rome; President: Professor A. Lunedei, Firenze; Vice-Presidents: Professor G. Melli, Milano and Professor G. Fauilli, Bologna; Secretary: Professor Umberto Serafini, Rome. Board of Regents: Professor V. Chini, Bari; Professor P. Di Mattel, Rome; Professor F. Flarer, Padova; Professor M. Lusena, Milano; Professor F. Magrassi, Napoli; Professor P. Raedelli, Milano; Professor P. Sangiorgi, Milano.

The official organ of the Italian Society of Allergology, legally constitutio-nalized, will be published in 1954 in remodelled form with the title of “Folia Allergologica”.

Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine
At a recent meeting in New York, the “American Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine” was founded. The following officers were elected: William Kaufman, M.D., Bridgeport, Conn., president; Bernard B. Raginsky, M.D. Montreal, vice-president; Alfred J. Cantor, M.D., Flushing, N. Y., treasurer, and Ethan Allan Brown, M.D., Boston, Mass., secretary. The first scientific meeting will be held in New York in June, 1954.

The American College of Allergists
The Decennial Instructional Course, April 5–7, 1954, with Dr. Ethan Allan Brown, Chairman, and Dr. Hal Davison, Co-chairman, had forty instructors.

Monday morning, April 5, there were eight lectures on The Allergic Nose. Dr. Hans Selye was guest speaker at the luncheon, and his subject was “Stress and the Allergic Disorders.” Seven
lectures on The Allergic Lung were given in the afternoon. Evening panels, from 8 to 10 p.m. were devoted to “The Steroid Hormones” and a Pediatric Panel.

Tuesday morning, April 6, there were nine lectures on The Allergic Skin. Dr. Alvan Barach, guest speaker at the luncheon, talked on “Recent Advances in Inhalational Therapy of Lung Disorders.” Eight lectures on Miscellaneous Allergic Disorders were given in the afternoon. Evening panels were on “Antihistaminic Agents” and “Mould Allergy”.

Wednesday morning, April 7, the subject was The Allergic Patient. Lectures on The Allergic State were given in the afternoon, and the evening session had two panels – “Any Questions?” and “Psychosomatic Allergy”.

From Monday through Friday, April 5–9, from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., Dr. Stephan D. hockey and associates gave lectures and demonstrations on Office and Laboratory Procedures.

The Decennial Congress began Thursday morning, April 8, with the full day devoted to a General Session. A Dermatologic Section was held Friday evening, April 9. Also on Friday, Dr. John Gillaspie, Chairman, introduced President Peshkin and the guest speaker, Dr. John W. Gowan, Professor of Genetics, Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Ames, Iowa, whose subject was “Individuality as a Factor in Resistance to Disease”. Saturday morning, April 10, there was a Section on Otolaryngology.

Dr. Merle W. Moore, Portland, is now in charge of the Department of Allergy of the University of Oregon Medical School.

Dr. John B. Miale, formerly associated with the Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, Wisconsin, is now Professor of Clinical Pathology of the University of Miami Medical School, and is located at the Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, Florida.

Alergia, Revista Ibero-Americana de Alergologia

The new Alergia, Vol. 1, No. 1, August, 1953, marks the introduction of the Spanish-American journal of allergy. Director General: Dr. Mario Salazar Mallen, Mexico, D.F. Directores Asociados: Dr. Guido Ruiz-Moreno, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Dr. Carlos Canseco, Jr., Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. Redactores: Dr. A. E. Bachmann, Argentina, Dr. F. Dumm, Argentina, Dr. Martorelli, Argentina, Dr. A. Solari, Argentina, Dr. Ernesto Mendes, Brasil, Dr. Jose Quintro Fossas, Cuba, Dr. Plutarco Naranjo Vargas, Ecuador, Dr. Sanchez Cuenca, España. Alergia combines the publication Alergia (Buenos Aires, Argentina) and Revista Mexicana de Alergologia (Monterrey, Mexico, organ of the Mexican Society of Allergists).

Please send manuscripts to Director Asociado, Dr. Guido Ruiz-Moreno, Anchorena 1338, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Subscription rate 35.00 (pesos mexi-canos) = $4.00 (dolares) per year.

Michigan Allergy Society

The officers of the Michigan Allergy Society for 1953–54 are: President, Donald D. Smith, M.D., Pontiac; Vice President, Joseph H. Shafter, M.D., Detroit; Secretary, Sidney Friedlander, M.D., Detroit. The first meeting of the Society was held in Detroit on January 20, 1954, at which time Dr. Eluin A. Kabat, Ph. D., Professor of Microbiology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York, addressed the group on “Quantitative Immunochemistry in the Study of Allergic Reactions”.

Book Reviews – Livres nouveaux – Buchbesprechungen

Cortone, A Handbook of Therapy. Published by the Scientific Staff of Merck (North America) Inc. New York 1953. 129 pages, 30 coloured plates, numerous figures, tables and references.
It is well-known that the first synthesis of Cortisone was achieved in the Merck Research Laboratories by Dr. L. H. Sarett in 1946. The Merck team, in close co-operation with Dr. Kendall and his co-workers at the Mayo Foundation, subsequently succeeded in synthesising this hormone on a large scale, and by 1948 produced amounts sufficient for clinical trial. The first therapeutic injection of Cortisone in a patient with rheumatoid arthritis was made by Dr. Hench on 21st September, 1948, and the dramatic effect of this injection – the start of a new and hopeful era in medical science – is also well-known. Since then the field of usefulness of Cortisone has broadened tremendously, to include allergic as well as rheumatic conditions: status asthmaticus, skin and eye affections of allergic origin, and many other disorders.

The methods of producing Cortisone have improved considerably; and today, in spite of steadily increasing therapeutic use, we are assured of an adequate supply. Early in 1950, N. L. Wendler, R.P. Graber, R. E. Jones and M. Tishler, at the Merck Laboratories, succeeded in synthesising Hydrocortisone, which is probably the principal corticoid with anti-inflammatory activity at tissue level.

In the present monograph, the scientific staff of Merck Inc. have summarised the data on the therapeutic use of Cortisone and Hydrocortisone. Part I is devoted to a general review of the diseases in which Cortisone is indicated and details the place of Cortisone in the pattern of treatment. Part II covers the various diseases in which Cortisone or Hydrocortisone are of known value. Representative case-histories, excellent photographs and informative tables show the profound clinical and metabolic effect of these hormonal agents in the range of conditions so far treated. Part III includes valuable chapters on tolerance and on the detection and prevention of side effects. The development of Cortisone research and production, and the physiological considerations which form the basis of Cortisone therapy, are also reviewed. The more important references are listed at the end of each chapter.

This monograph is an invaluable and practical aid, and gives all the information in the use of Cortisone therapy at present available in a most instructive and convenient form. Paul Kallós, Helsingborg.