Postscript

by the Chairman of the European Clinical Section of the International Association of Gerontology

In July, 1957, Dr. J. H. Sheldon, then President of the International Association of Gerontology, asked me to organize, with Dr. O. Olhrich as secretary, the European Clinical Section of the Association. He was looking into the future. Events have proved he was right.

The arrangement to hold the first meeting in Sunderland at the Clinic of Dr. Olhrich was jeopardized by his tragic and sudden death, but his assistant, Dr. Woodford-Williams, agreed to carry on in his place. So the first meeting of the Section was held, as arranged, in October 1958. It was a complete success, all the prominent European Geriatricians attending and giving papers of the highest value. This occasion will be, some day, a date in the history of Gerontology.

Professor Greppi, President of the International Association of Gerontology, wished me to continue as Chairman of the European Clinical Section till the 1960 International Congress at San Francisco; I declined his kind offer, because I am convinced of the necessity of "blood and brain transfusion" for the efficient development of a "young section dealing with old problems".

I asked Professor Herbeuval of Nancy if he would take the chair and organize the second meeting of the European Clinical Section for 1959. He accepted and I am now convinced that my choice was good. I hope I have well served the cause of Geriatrics in the spirit of Dr. Sheldon. In each country there are excellent journals of Gerontology and Geriatrics. Now comes a new publication, "Gerontologia Cli-

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nica", which will be international. It was a necessity and I feel sure it will be a success.

Nevertheless, national publications must retain their high scientific standard, for in each country, the cause of Gerontology must be energetically defended.

Gerontology is the embodiment of demography which itself dominates politics. Longevity is increasing in such a way that, tomorrow, life will be extended to 100 or 120 years. In this lies the certainty of the survival and growth of Gerontology.

If "life begins at sixty" let us hope that the Geriatricians will have the skill and science to give us a "Golden Age".

J. A. Huet Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Grontologiques

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