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Preface

A congress is a coming together. Like any 'happening', there is no accurate quantitative measurement for either its ingredients or its impact. If a congress is successful, one can choose to underline the depth and breadth of its planning, the diversity of its scope, the admixture of talented guests, the quality of presentation, the status of the science behind the presentation, the level of excellence in the particular scientific field, the interplay of personalities, the geographical setting, and even the weather. Judging from comments received, the III International Congress of Nephrology was a success. We hope that success is not measured merely by the 2134 scientists registered, the 624 abstracts submitted, or the 75 invited papers and 224 free communications presented. We hope that these tangible items are outweighed by the intangibles,—the new ideas appreciated, the constructive criticisms received, the new directions indicated, the new friendships created, and the old ones confirmed. The Congress served as a much needed worldwide inventory of the 'state of the art' of nephrology with its related basic and clinical components. It demonstrated the rapidity with which progress has been made in this remarkable new field of medicine.

In the beginning neither President Berliner nor myself was in favor of publishing a Proceedings. The lead time for preparing presentations for international congresses is usually so long that publications are often dated or repetitious of already published work. In the end
our minds were changed, as they should be, by the evidence at hand: the quality and breadth of the symposium presentations which represented a remarkable cross-section of the entire range of nephrology and the only currently available inventory of the field of nephrology as of 1966. The dramatic advances in dialysis and transplantation were matched by equally important additions in the basic fund of knowledge in related physiology, morphology, bacteriology, pharmacology, and immunology. The challenge of the kidney had obviously been a stimulating force in clinical investigation in the three years since Prague. So we have proceeded with these Proceedings which contain all but one of the invited presentations which comprised the symposia at the Congress. We have divided them into three volumes, roughly designated as Physiology; Morphology, Immunology, Urology; and Clinical Nephrology. Those who were not able to attend the Congress and who have special interests may obtain the material of their choice from the publisher. For those who registered for the Congress, we hope that these three volumes will recall the happy and fruitful days of September, 1966.

For their work and cooperation we wish to express our sincere gratitude to the individual volume editors, Drs. Joseph S. Handler, Robert H. Heptinstall, and E. Lovell Becker, to our Congress Manager, Mrs. Helena B. Lemp, and to our publisher. Most of all, we wish to thank the authors, who deserve the real credit for writing these Proceedings of the III International Congress of Nephrology.

George E. Schreiner, M. D.
Secretary-General
Coordinating Editor

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Washington, D. C. 1966

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