in the diary of the surgeon whose first instinct was to regret his fate in being whirled around the United States is recorded in these words: "It is really something quite unique that we should have everything served up on a dish like this. We hope that a similar group of young American and Canadian orthopaedic Surgeons will be able to return the visit. This is the start of something big." — EDITOR.

SOCIÉTÉ INTERNATIONALE DE CHIRURGIE ORTHOPÉDIQUE ET DE TRAUMATOLOGIE

In 1929 the late Fred Albee of New York applied his energy to the task of persuading European colleagues that the time had arrived for the creation of an International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery. It was necessary for him to convince two people—Sir Robert Jones and Professor Vittorio Putti. The idea did not at first appeal to members of the British Orthopaedic Association who suggested the alternative proposal of an International Council which would maintain liaison between existing national orthopaedic societies. It soon became clear that the orthopaedic surgeons of European countries would be satisfied with nothing less than a permanent society, organised on the lines of the International Society of Surgery which had its headquarters in Brussels. Accordingly, a meeting was held in Paris in October 1929, at which the new Society was launched with the goodwill of delegates from thirteen countries. The British delegate on this occasion was Thomas Fairbank. By unanimous vote, Robert Jones was chosen as first President, with Professor Putti and Professor Gocht of Berlin as Vice-Presidents. Professor Maffei and Dr Delchef of Brussels were elected Treasurer and Secretary. It was decided that the Society should meet every three years, and that membership should be limited to one hundred.

The first Congress was held in Paris in October 1930. Sir Robert Jones gave his presidential address on "The Domain of Orthopaedic Surgery." Two subjects were discussed: "The treatment of congenital dislocation of the hip joint after the age of fifteen years"; and "Injuries of the wrist joint"; each subject being introduced by "rapporteurs" who were chosen in advance.

The second Congress was held in London in July 1933. By then the Society had lost its first President. Sir Robert was succeeded by Dr Murk-Jansen of Leiden, superb poly-linguist
and close friend of orthopaedic surgeons in many countries. The London Congress, attended by more than one hundred members and visitors, was an outstanding success. Professor Nové-Josserand of Lyons presided over its deliberations with dignity and charm. At a reception at the Royal College of Surgeons of England the Honorary Fellowship of the College was conferred upon him. Professor Putti was chosen as President of the next Congress to be held in Bologna and Rome in September 1936. It will be noted that the Society has always had two Presidents—a President of the Society, a more permanent officer who presides over the International Committee meetings, and a President for each Congress.

The third Congress was held in Bologna and Rome in September 1936. It will long be remembered for its brilliant setting under the presidency of Professor Putti who was acclaimed as the intellectual leader of international orthopaedics. The Society had then lost two of its great founders, for Murk-Jansen died in 1935. He was succeeded as President of the Society by Professor Louis Ombrédanne of Paris, who has conducted the affairs of the Society with wisdom and distinction during the past twelve years. At the Bologna meeting the title was changed to “Société Internationale de Chirurgie Orthopédique et de Traumatologie,” despite opposition from German members who were still suffering from the domination of general surgeons, and had difficulty in accepting the inclusion of traumatic surgery. Preliminary arrangements were made for the fourth Congress to be held in Berlin in September 1939 under the presidency of Professor Hermann Gocht, with Dr Fred H. Albee and Professor Patrik Haglund of Stockholm as Vice-Presidents. By July 1939 the programme was in the hands of all members, and most “rapports” on the main subjects had been printed and distributed. Many members had made travel arrangements. Professor Georg Hohmann of Frankfurt was in London in July with many of his colleagues, attending an international cripples’ conference, and he assured the late Mr Rowley Bristow and this writer that no international incident would prevent the Congress being held. We had no reason to doubt this belief. But the meeting was cancelled.

After the liberation of Belgium and France, Professor Ombrédanne and Dr Delchef got into touch with national delegates of Allied and friendly nations. An International Committee meeting was held in January 1946, and in October 1946 the Society was “re-born” at a Scientific Reunion in Brussels.

The fourth Congress, the first post-war Congress, as already announced in this Journal, will take place in Amsterdam between September 13 and 18.

Harry Platt.