

OPENING OF THE FIRST EUROPEAN RHINOLOGIC CONGRESS

H. A. E. van Dishoeck

I welcome you to the University and town of Leiden and to this first European Congress of Rhinology.

We are indeed a very special gathering of very specialized specialists. Why did we feel the necessity to found another society? Why are we not satisfied with our national E.N.T. societies and the international congresses every four years?

The answer is simple — because the nose and his special problems are forgotten — because we do not meet the colleagues who are interested in rhinology — because we do not find the proper atmosphere for presenting our specialized work and because we need these international contacts.

Out of this dissatisfaction specialized societies were born f.i. for phonology and audiology. Both of them are internationally organized and well established with regular national and international congresses and flourishing journals of their own.

With these examples before our eyes it is not astonishing that other groups should follow. Often a special inducement is needed and for us this inducement was the example of the American Rhinologic Society and the so successful Leiden-course in Nasal Surgery of last year.

We are still a small group of \pm 60 members and to this our first congress 40 members are inscribed. But let us not be down hearted. Ten years ago — at the time of the IV International congress in Amsterdam — the first International Audiological congress was held in this very hospital with not more than 80 participants, but at the last congress more than 300 participants from everywhere in the world were again assembled in Leiden.

But our first problem is to survive in the coming years. This small baby, the E.R.S., needs our attention and must be nursed through his childhood. For this he needs you, but on the other side you will only recognize your fatherhood when the baby is a credit to you. This depends very much on the outcome of this and the following congresses and courses.

It is not by chance that this congress is coupled to a surgery course. The E.R.S. started as a surgery course coupled to a Boerhaave Course to which more than 30 wellknown specialists contributed and we feel that a rational way to further our society is to have always a congress coupled to a course in different European countries.

Prof. Cottle that we are here as a society we owe to your enthusiasm for rhinology. Indeed you are the grandfather of this baby and we hope that you will return many times to Europe for his guidance. We also thank our friends

Hinderer, Gaynon, Fischer and Neidlinger for their presence and their willingness to help with the course.

Please remember that most probably in the near future the members of the American, European and other Rhinologic Societies will be united in a covering International organisation. So you may feel at home as we all will feel ourselves at home in every part of the world where Rhinology flourishes.

H. A. E. van Dishoeck

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