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ALL-RUSSIAN CONGRESS OF PEDIATRICIANS

- USSR -

by I. Ye. Shakhbazyan

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FOREWORD

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- USSR -

[Following is a translation of an article by I. Ye. Shakhbazyan in Fel'dher i Akusherka (Doctor's Assistant and Midwife), No. 3, Moscow, March 1960, pages 54-55.]

From 14 through 19 December 1959 in Moscow was held the All-Russian Congress of Pediatricians, organized by the Ministry of Public Health of the RSFSR and the All-Russian Society of Pediatricians.

At the congress there were approximately 1200 delegates, who had come from various oblasts and autonomous republics of the Russian Federation and other union republics, eminent pediatricians, therapists, representatives of the Ministry of Public Health of the RSFSR and the Ministry of Education of the RSFSR. The Minister of Public Health of the RSFSR N. A. Vinogradov opened the congress. The Deputy Minister of Public Health of the RSFSR N. N. Grigor'yeva reported on the state of aid to children for 1959. She noted together with the progress achieved in Soviet pediatrics the lag of some fields, in particular in combating children's infections, the morbidity of which is still high. The Deputy Minister of Education Comrade Katsin dwelled on the importance of the proper academic load, the expedient distribution of time, on the question of physical education of school children as the most urgent problem in the field of education.

The remaining reports and speeches in the discussions were devoted to the problems of rheumatism, tuberculosis, the physiology and the pathology of newborns, and also the physical development and medical service of school children.

Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR Prof. A. F. Tur gave a report on the physical education of children as a basis of prophylaxis for rheumatism and tuberculosis. He emphasized the importance of individual diathesis of the child's organism to rheumatism and tuberculosis, and also the role of the proper physical education of children from the first days of life as a necessary condition of their full development and formation of the maximum resistance of the organism to any negative effects of the external environment.

The speech of N. P. Sovvatimskaya was devoted to the creative activity of Prof. A. A. Kisel' and his role in Soviet pediatrics. In the speech were presented the basic stages of the activity of

A. A. Kisel', in particular in the field of the development of the ideas of Botkin, Bystrov and others. Also were discussed the question of the importance of the prophylactic trend in medicine, the role of the external environment in the development of diseases, and the importance of keen clinical analysis in the study and treatment of the latter. Putting his ideas into practice, A. A. Kisel' proposed and developed a whole series of organized measures for combating tuberculosis, rheumatism, malaria, children's intestinal infections, etc. These measures were the basis for the forms which are operating at the present time, and for methods for combating these especially dangerous and serious diseases.

There was special interest in the reports of Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR Prof. A. I. Nesterov on the present state of the question of the etiology and pathogenesis of rheumatism, Prof. V. I. Ioffe on the immunology of rheumatism in children, Associate Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR Prof. O. D. Sokolova-Ponomareva on the early diagnosis and determination of the activity of the rheumatic process in children, Docent Ye. V. Kovaleva on the role of the age factor in the reaction of the organism and the seriousness of the rheumatic process, etc.

In his report Prof. A. I. Nesterov once again emphasized the role of streptococcus in the etiology of rheumatism and clearly defined the basic stages in the pathogenesis of the disease, attaching special importance to individual characteristics of the organism, to the allerge-hyperergic reactions of mesenchymal tissue, which lead to a destruction of a whole series of histo-biochemical processes.

According to the data of Prof. V. I. Ioffe, for proper evaluation of specific immunological changes in rheumatic patients, work should be carried out not only along the line of research of immunology of streptococcal infection, but also along the line of total immunology of inflammatory and feverish processes, namely research of the curve of C-reactive protein.

G. G. Stuks, Ye. M. Mazalevskaya, F. S. Buyanovskaya discussed observations, which pertain to the sanatorium treatment of children, rheumatic patients, in conditions of the Siberian radioactive health resort "Belokurikha", "Goryachiy Klyuch" (Krasnodarsk kray) and Kislovodsk.

Several reports were devoted to the question of the conditions of the cardiovascular system in children, who are rheumatic patients (I. I. Yegorov, M. K. Oskolkova and others).

At two plenary sessions 15 papers were given on the problem of tuberculosis. According to the data of Prof. M. P. Pakhitonova, there have been recently noted significant successes in combating tuberculosis in childhood, which is expressed in a decrease of the morbidity and the death rate from tuberculosis at all ages. This can be explained by the wide introduction of specific bacteriostatic preparations into therapy: streptomycin, PASK (paraaminosalicylic acid), and phthivazide (isonicotinic acid hydrazide derivative).

Prof. I. V. Tsimbler and his collaborators attach special significance in combating tuberculosis, together with the anti-tuberculous vaccination, to the recognition of early forms of the disease, which it is not always possible to detect clinically and roentgenologically. Therefore it is necessary to direct special attention to the manifestation of early clinical symptoms of tuberculous intoxication. In addition to that Prof. I. V. Tsimbler discussed the question of the significance of the disturbance of bronchial penetrability in the development of segmental and lobular pulmonary diseases.

In the report of A. N. Voznesenskaya, A. G. Pakhtsverova and M. V. Shesterina was indicated, how differently occurs tuberculosis of the trachea and bronchi in childhood. Together with rare, serious forms, which are accompanied by asphyxia, there can be found forms with an asymptomatic course. The difficulties of diagnosis in these cases are caused by these factors. In addition to this an important clinical symptom is the discovery of microbacteria of tuberculosis in gastric lavages, and also the tracheobronchoscopic picture is characteristic. In the treatment of these forms together with the total complex treatment it is necessary to use the intratracheal administration of anti-tuberculous preparations and acid cauterization under the control of a bronchoscope.

In a series of reports (Prof. D. S. Futer and colleagues, Prof. I. Ya. Serebriyskiy and collaborators, I. A. Bystritskiy and others) were discussed questions of pathogenesis, clinical aspects, treatment and remote results of tubercular meningitis in children. The speakers unanimously expressed the opinion, that the peroral method, recommended at the present time, has justified itself and may be widely used, whereas it is necessary to resort to endolumbar and subarachnoid administration of preparations only in individual cases.

With no less interest were heard reports on questions of the physiology and the pathology of the newborn, the physical development and medical service of school children. Prof. B. N. Klosovskiy indicated, that among the reasons, which lead to the birth of children, who are not fully developed in the physical and nerve-psychic respects, a conspicuous place is held by all kinds of endocrine disorders, infectious diseases of the mother, her use of contraceptives, and also the effect of harmful types of industries and radiant energy. Reasons were also explained for various forms of underdevelopment of the brain, and a check of them was carried out by means of the conducting of experiments on animals.

In a number of reports were discussed questions of the physiology of newborns (Prof. I. A. Arshavskiy, K. V. Shuleykina, N. I. Kvasnaya and Ye. I. Semenova), hemolytic diseases of newborns (Prof. I. A. Shtern and collaborators, K. G. Sokolova).

On questions of school medicine, there were several reports on the schedule of the day, and the resistance of the school children to the external environment in conditions of the boarding school.