

sans défaillance: « Violenti rapiunt illud », a dit Saint Mathieu: « Ceux qui veulent violemment arracheront le royaume de Dieu ».

J'espère enfin que ceux d'entre nous auxquels sont confiés — charge hautement honorifique — la défense de notre belle profession et le soin de son avenir, exactement éclairés sur le but et les exigences d'une saine Médecine d'entreprise, assurés que, par elle, notre mission tutélaire est élargie pour le bien commun, insensibles à toute autre considération, faciliteront par tous moyens en leur pouvoir son développement, d'ailleurs inéluctable.

Ils justifieront ainsi la confiance qui leur a été faite.

* * *

Et lorsque, autour et en faveur de la Médecine du Travail, l'accord des intelligences, des cœurs et des volontés aura été enfin réalisé, les ouvriers de la première heure, suspendant un instant leur effort, pourront mesurer le chemin parcouru et se réjouir, assurés du succès prochain, puisque, désormais, sera réalisée cette condition, pour Hippocrate gage de la santé, et non moins indispensable à la complète réussite d'un effort social: « Consensus unus, concursus unus, conspiratio una ». Ils n'auront plus à répéter l'appel, toujours imprégné de quelque inquiétude: « Custos, quid de nocte ». Déjà, pour eux, une aube claire annoncera le jour trois fois heureux où, par l'effort des hommes de bonne volonté, sera enfin réalisé le message qu'apporte au Monde la Médecine du Travail, message d'espoir, de confiance, de justice. (*Molti applausi*).

Ha la parola il Dottor MALAN, in rappresentanza dell'OMS.

Eminence, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

as regional officer of social and occupational health I have been invited to carry out the present duty of representing the World Health Organisation at this 11th International Congress of industrial medicine and to convey to you the personal greetings of the Director General of the Organisation, Dr. Marcelino Candia, and of the Director of the regional office of Europe, Dr. Norman Bage.

The World Health Organisation, which is dedicated by its constitution to work for the obtainment of the highest possible level of health for all peoples, has an obvious and definite interest in the

health of the workers, who represent a large, indeed the largest section, of the population. It is well known that the modern industrial worker spends only about one third of each day in his place of employment, and the rest of his time at home or in general social environment, where his health is influenced by the existing physical biological and social conditions. I think it cannot be question that the risks of exposure to diseases directly connected to work are considerably fewer than those encountered elsewhere. The implication of this is that the worker's health must be looked after at his place of work and in his social environments. In other words, occupational health services must be viewed in the many aspects of the total question of health care of the population, preventive and curative.

Industrial health work cuts therefore across many areas of public health and preventive medicine together and becomes the joint responsibility of many national agencies, also for those intergovernmental organisations watching principally through national ministries or departments of health, and whose constitution includes among other functions to promote in cooperation with specialised agencies the improvement of economic and working conditions. And one of the first sections of the organization taken at the First World Assembly in 1948 was to initiate the establishment in the International Labour Organisation of a Joint Committee on occupational health. Among those who entered the field of occupational health were, since 1920, the International Labour Office who has been doing a wonderful work, with a program based on the following guiding principles: first to encourage the participation of public health agencies in the protection of the health of industrial workers, and secondly to encourage the organisation of general health and medical services for industrial workers in connection with industrial establishments. Two activities in occupational health are carried on by headquarters and by the food regional offices, of which incidentally there are 6, respectively located in Manila, New Delhi, Alexandria, Brazzaville, Washington and Geneva.

While some divisions such as statistics, epidemiological, editorial and reference services have only an indirect relation with occupational health, the headquarters advisory services department makes a definite contribution to the health of the workers.

To be mentioned in this connection are the division of contagious diseases, the division of education and training services, the fellowship program which enables candidates proposed by member states to undertake academic or field training abroad for an extended period, the

division of organisation of public health services as well as a division of environmental sanitation which are concerned with strengthening national public health services in all the fields outside contagious diseases. Advisory and demonstration services are provided in sanitation, maternal and child health, as education, nutrition, nursing, mental health, occupational health and general public health administration.

The headquarters section of social and occupational health is now preparing a monograph on occupational health in an industrial development program, and planning the setting up in each of the six regions of a training and research center on occupational health. An expert Committee on maternity care has suggested international standards on maternity leaves for working women. The section of health education encourages programs of education for industrial workers just as the section on nutrition offers advisory services on industrial feeding.

Among other station activities related to occupational health which WHO carried out jointly with ILO and other agencies, the following should be mentioned: promotion of the health of seafaring men, the work on medical aspects of rehabilitation and on protection against radiation.

Lastly the Executive Board of the WHO, this very year, passed a resolution stressing the desirability of putting more emphasis on occupational health activities with a view to stimulating interest in the increasing importance of this field, especially in those industrialized countries, concerning the work carried on at a regional level. May I briefly mention some of the projects which have been organised by the European Office to which I am attached: experts on occupational health have been sent on request to member states, for instance, to Finland, Yugoslavia, Turkey, where they have helped the local authorities to strengthen the health services.

Fellowships have been granted to industrial medical officers and courses on occupational health promoted.

Two seminars on occupational health have been organised with the object of trying to break down the isolation of industrial health services which existed in many European countries and to bring industrial physicians and medical inspectors of factory together with public health officers.

The International Labour Office collaborates in these projects. A full report of these two seminars will be published — we hope — at the beginning of next year in an official publication. Looking back

at our start in this field we can say that good results have already been achieved, and that — thanks also to our joint activity with ILO — and to the help of member states, a closer collaboration has been reached in Europe between the agencies concerned with the health and the welfare of the workers.

The presence here of responsible officials from Government departments, eminent public personalities, politicians and researchers, to me seems a good opportunity to stress how much the Health World Organisation appreciates the collaboration of all the agencies and of all those persons who are contributing in one way or another to the improvement of the physical, mental, social and economic conditions of the worker; and to say that for me it is a great pleasure to attend this meeting which is a proof of the existing spirit of cooperation. A common aim unites all who are here, that is to ensure a healthier and richer life for the working population.

Now, if you allow me, I will touch a more practical point: among the subjects which will be dealt with at these meetings one has a special interest for the World Health Organisation. That of insecticides.

In 1952 to the World Health Assembly was reported the problem of the toxicity of an insecticide: this body recommended the study by the Organisation of the problem. Accordingly, as a first step, a report on information available on toxic hazards of certain pesticides to men was prepared by WHO.

In 1953 a symposium on insect control was held in Rome, jointly organised by the World Health Organisation and the Italian Government. WHO is now collecting information on the legislation existing in the world in connection with production, use, and control of pesticides. As a consequence of this activity, a study group organised by WHO in collaboration with ILO and FAO, will be held in 1958. In this connection any information which you may be able to provide on existing legislation and research on insecticides, will be very much appreciated by the WHO, and I shall be pleased to collect it, or it should be sent to the Division of environmental sanitation at the WHO in Geneva.

I thank you for your attention, and I wish every success to this important Congress. *(Applauds)*.