

The Secretary's Page

The 72nd Scientific Congress of the European Orthodontic Society was held in the grand seaside resort of Brighton, on the south coast of England, under the Presidency of Professor James (Jim) Moss. Professor Moss was assisted by his wife Mary and the organizing committee which was drawn from the British and European Orthodontic Societies. Over 1100 delegates, who had descended on Brighton from all parts of the world, were presented with a superb Congress. The weather was typically British—changeable, plenty of showers with occasional bright spells. Where were the free umbrellas—remember Bergen? The Congress took place in the Dome, with the poster and trade exhibitions located in the adjacent Corn Exchange.

On the Monday, prior to the Congress, the British Orthodontic Society held its annual scientific day. After the meeting the Society hosted an evening reception for the European delegates in St Bartholomew's church, the largest Victorian church in the country. During the reception we were entertained by an excellent organ recital.

The 72nd Congress of the EOS was opened with a welcoming message from Professor Moss and a violin recital by Erik Houston, son of the late Professor Bill Houston. The pieces performed included those by Stravinsky and Elgar, extremely appropriate for the occasion. Speeches followed from Baroness Cumberlege, a resident of Brighton, and Minister in the Department of Health, and Mr John Llewellyn Williams, Dean of the Dental Faculty of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

The Ernest Sheldon Friel Memorial Lecture was given by Professor Mark Ferguson, who presented, in his unique and entertaining style, the results of his research into isolated cleft palate and strategies for scar-free healing. Following this fascinating lecture, the four best W. J. B. Houston Award papers were presented. The award was given to Miss S. R. Turner for her paper 'Multi-centre psychological outcomes for patients with cleft lip and palate'. The best

poster award was given to Mr D. J. Hills on 'Orthodontic bracket placement by orthodontic auxiliaries'. Mr David Rice received the Houston Research Award worth £30,000 to further his investigations into a mouse model of cranio-synostosis, under the guidance of Professor Thesslef in Helsinki. The prizes were presented by Turid Houston.

The excellent scientific programme was divided into four main themes: craniofacial anomalies, interceptive treatment, the physiological basis of tooth and jaw movements, and interdisciplinary treatments. Over 80 papers were presented over the four days, including 11 keynote lectures. The posters and table demonstrations were of a high standard and were a focus for lively discussion and debate.

The Presidential Reception was held in the Thistle Hotel. We were entertained by a troupe of Morris dancers and musicians and given a résumé of the history of Brighton by the President himself. This was a thoroughly enjoyable evening to begin a week of renewed friendships.

The congress outing took delegates to Hever Castle in Kent. Despite the grey skies, spirits were raised by Mary and Jim greeting us as Ann Boleyn and Henry VIII, complete with umbrellas. Following a stroll around the grounds of Hever Castle, which included a visit to Ann Boleyn's house, the Silver Mill competition took place. The first round of competition, 'apple dunking', failed to eliminate any teams and so an apple and spoon race was run, from which Italy and Poland emerged as winners. The final of this prestigious competition involved retrieving a pantomime horse and cow outfit and carrying one of the team members to the far end of the course. Italy excelled themselves, possibly due to incentives promised by the stewards. To conclude the evening we were treated to a superb performance of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the open-air theatre, situated in the Italian gardens with views of the lake.

The banquet, on the Friday evening, took

place in the Metropole, one of Brighton's oldest and finest hotels. The musical accompaniment was played by the Royal Artillery Band in full parade dress. The evening was a great success and a fitting end to an excellent congress. President Moss invested the new President, Professor José Canut, with the badge of office and was then himself presented with his

Past-President's badge. Professor Canut congratulated Professor Moss on an excellent congress and welcomed everyone to the next meeting of the Society to be held in Valencia on the Mediterranean coast of Spain (9–14 June, 1997).

Robert D. Evans

Opus Honorarium Benito Miotto (1996)

G. B. Garino and F. A. Miotti (Eds)

Libreria Progetto, Padova

These well presented proceedings were produced to honour one of our past presidents, Benito Miotti.

Many speakers collected their thoughts in papers, both in English and Italian, and the obvious breadth of knowledge and experience demonstrated by the topics presented are a

compliment to his many years of service to orthodontics.

It is unclear whether this text is available, but if some review copies still exist they are worth reading, even if your Italian is not to standard. Enquiries should be directed to Professor Francesca Miotto, University of Padova, Italy.