

Government architect, Jaffé, formed the background of the tribune. In front of the picture rose a golden throne, whereon sat a colossal statue of Æsculapius, by Westphal. The robes of the presiding deity gleamed white beneath the cunningly arranged electric beams, and his features wore an expression of Olympian calm and benignancy. Beneath the throne an altar-like desk or pulpit gave the orator of the moment the look of a ministering priest.

On the right the elevated orchestra was transformed into a shrine of Athene, surrounded by winged Fames and Victories, and enclosing a stately figure of the goddess, by Giustiani. On the opposite side the Imperial box was adorned in a like manner, but the central object there was a bust of the German Emperor. All round the circle stood antique statues, and shields bearing the arms of the German Kingdoms and States, while from the roof hung gigantic banners of all the nations represented at the Congress.

By 11 o'clock something like 7,000 persons filled the hall, and though the temperature speedily rose to a distressing point, there was no languor in the reception accorded to the President, Dr. Virchow, as attended by a brilliant company of Ministers, university officials, and officers in uniform, he ascended the tribune; and, as one and another of the celebrities were recognised, applause broke forth again and again. Sir Joseph Lister and "Dr. Duke Theodor of Bavaria," with the Duchess, were perhaps the most heartily acclaimed.

Professor Virchow, whose coat was loaded with stars and crosses, took his place beneath the throne of Æsculapius, and in a clear, if not strong, voice delivered his address of welcome.

It was, perhaps, a trifle lengthy and detailed, and as the heat became well-nigh unbearable many of the audience began to discover that cool air and cooler beer were to be had in the endless corridors of the Circus. The orator began by expressing his satisfaction at seeing the large number of distinguished guests who had accepted the invitation of the Organising Committee. All members of the Congress might be convinced that they would be received as beloved guests in the capital of the empire. The German people knew that medicine was one of the most sincere representatives of "humanity," and it was accustomed to see medical investigations and medical practice go hand in hand with each other. The German Emperor was sorry that he had to be absent from Berlin, and was thus prevented from receiving the Congress in person. He had, however, ordered that a member of his family should receive a certain number of members of the Congress. The Imperial Government and the Reichstag has granted a large sum for the Congress, and both the Imperial Government and those of the single German States had gladly taken part in the medico-scientific exhibition held in connection with the Congress. The great evils of mankind—poverty and war—were constantly threatening societies and States; but it was a consolation that both people and Government in Germany were endeavoring to diminish the social evils as much as possible and to preserve peace. Medicine could not interfere much, if at all, in the settlement of social and political questions, and its task was only to repair the damages caused under certain conditions, as by war. Professor Virchow here took occasion to speak of the medico-military arrangements, and said that the German military adminis-

tration would furnish to the Congress the proof that nothing appertaining to the care and prevention of diseases had escaped its attention. In the hospitals as well as in the army schools of instruction, and in the scientific exhibition of the Congress, the members would have an opportunity of seeing all the arrangements for bringing speedy help to the wounded and invalids of the army; and not only to the wounded and the invalids of its own army, for nowhere was the beneficent activity of the Red Cross so much appreciated, and nowhere was it brought into such near and constant connection with military administration as among our colleagues of the army. Nowhere were the humane feelings of the doctor more developed than among our military colleagues. The orator then proceeded to give a sketch of the relations between the civil and military medicine, and laid stress on the fact that the highest task of the International Medical Congresses was to teach all their members and all medical men throughout the world that medicine ought to be a humane science. They one and all gloried in the fact that the great personal sacrifices often made by doctors were frequently not attended with any pecuniary compensation, and the medical men of the whole world were not gathered in such immense meetings to gain personal advantages, to improve their social position, to secure a higher rate of pay and less work, but only to improve in knowledge, to render themselves strong in the power to cure, to render still greater services to their fellow-creatures than before. For this reason the article 3 of their statutes was: "The purpose of the Congress is an exclusively scientific one;" for this reason they refrained from enquiring into the social position of the physician or into the means of improving it, though they deeply felt that social misfortune was sufficiently widespread in the medical profession. The struggle for existence broke the hearts of many, and, nevertheless, when they gathered together, they left family and professional cares at home, and in their meetings only gathered around the flag of science; there they stood in the foremost ranks of the champions of humanity. In all places where this Congress met, in all the capitals of the old and new world, he found the citizens engaged in improving sanitary conditions and bringing them to that level which science required. Professor Virchow next dwelt on the sanitary conditions of Berlin, and concluded with the following words: "Pardon me, gentlemen, this long digression. You will learn that almost all these great institutions were created at a period in which, in the opinion of many persons, Germany was not occupied with any other thing than with the preparation of new wars. Now, gentlemen, we are sincere friends of peace. We know that peace nourishes and that hostility destroys. We wish to live at peace with the whole world in order to be able to pursue the tasks of science and the aims of humanity undisturbed and after our own fashion. We are happy to see ourselves surrounded by such a vast number of distinguished colleagues, in whom we admit the same feelings exist, and whose co-operation will be a new spur to diligence and assiduity. For this reason I once more heartily welcome you to our city. May each day contribute more and more to promote mutual understanding and friendship among all of us."

Dr. Lassar, the General Secretary, followed with his report. Twenty-five governments, thirty universities, fifty learned societies had sent official representatives. The French Government, he mentioned