INTRODUCTION

In June 1963 the Harveian Society of London undertook a pilgrimage to the Universities of Padua, Bologna and Pisa. The purpose of this visit was to retrace William Harvey's footsteps in Padua, to admire the historical Anatomy Theatre where he studied under Fabricius, to seek the stemma commemorating his residence and his office as Consiliarius of the English Nation and, most of all, to forge fresh ties of cordiality with the Italian medical profession. Dr. Cawadia described Paduan influence on Harvey succinctly: Harvey, taking as a springboard the Paduan method, made the leap of genius. He was taught corpses: he made them alive. He was shown statues: he gave them movement. He was trained as an anatomist: he became the first modern experimental physiologist. On April 25th 1602, he graduated M.D. of Padua and was awarded a diploma which is now in the Harveian Library of the Royal College of Physicians. And so, 360 years later, to the “Giornata Scientifiche Harveiane, dall Università di Padova”, the hospitality of Professor Patrassi and his Paduan Studio of today. From Padua and Venice to Professor Giulio Sotgiu and his group at the University of Bologna and to Professor Monasterio of the University of Pisa, where a scientific symposium was held on a memorable day—Friday, June 14th, 1963—the day on which a new Pope was elected. The papers read in this symposium were published in Bolletino, Società Medico-Chirurgica di Pisa, anno 31, no. 2 (April-June, 1963).

A return visit to London was paid by a number of members of the medical faculties of the Universities of Padua, Bologna and Pisa in October, 1964. Italian Universities Evenings were the highlights of the calendar of the Harveian Society on October 14th and of that of the Osler Club on the following night: what was felt and seen and exchanged will remain an unforgettable experience to Italian and British participants at both academic and social meetings. Five of the Italian papers presented at these meetings are published in this issue of the POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL JOURNAL. Two, by Professor Sotgiu and Professor Labò, deal with inflammation of the bile ducts, a subject which has received more attention on the Continent, and particularly in Italy, than in this country. Professor Patrassi describes his experiences with primary amyloidosis, Professor Austoni gives a detailed account of a remarkable case of simultaneous thyroid and parathyroid activity which he investigated very fully. Professors dal Palu, Spandri and Zuin give an account of their investigations into hepatic galactose clearance.

Many English clinicians are familiar with the beautifully produced English Edition of Panminerva Medica, published bi-monthly in Turin at Corso Bramante, 83. Professors Patrassi and Sotgiu, as members of the Editorial Board, are partly responsible for the extremely high standard of production of this publication which deserves to be widely known in this country.
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