

Editorial

THE NINTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF LINGUISTS is now past. Over 750 delegates from all over the world have now returned to their homes after a week of meetings: of group meetings, section meetings, plenary sessions, demonstrations, films, and meetings laconically described as *OTHER MEETINGS*. Almost every aspect of modern linguistics was discussed in one way or another. For example, simultaneous group meetings were held on the third day of the congress on the following subjects: 1. Theory of Diachronic Linguistics; 2. Language Universals; 3. Language and Meaning; 4. Language and Biology; 5. Language Families; 6. Phonological Descriptions of Languages; 7. Morpho-syntactic Descriptions of Languages; 8. Glottochronology and Lexical Borrowing; 9. Dictionaries and Translation; and 10. *Varia!*

Intended as high points for the Congress were the plenary sessions at which some well-known linguist summarized his paper after which discussants were given opportunity to present their prepared comments, to which the rapporteur would then give his reply. Five such plenary sessions were held, one on each day of the Congress. The first of these was by Professor Kuryłowicz of Krakow on the methods of internal reconstruction; the second, on the levels of linguistic analysis, by Professor Benveniste of the College de France; the third, on structural variation in language, by Professor Martinet of the Sorbonne. Unfortunately the fourth plenary session was marred by the absence of the rapporteur, Professor Andreyev of Moscow. His paper on linguistic aspects of translation had, however, been circulated in advance, and was ably summarized and defended by Professor Yngve of M.I.T. A number of discussants defended human over against machine translation to the obvious approval of the majority present. The most popular and probably most significant session was that on the logical basis of linguistic theory, by Professor Chomsky of M.I.T. Over twenty discussants took part in this session.

The Ninth International Congress of Linguists was the first to be held in North America. It was a qualified success, as con-

gresses in view of their size so often are. Eighteen delegates from Canada were present at the Congress. Canada had been represented by three delegates on the original North American Committee on Arrangements, but because of a later reorganization of the executive committee a much smaller group without Canadian representation was formed, so that we can take no credit for the success of this most significant linguistic event of the year.

J.W.W.

Our Contributors

Nos Collaborateurs

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