The Pasteur Centenary Celebrations.

THE national celebrations which took place throughout France on May 24-June 1 in honour of Louis Pasteur are unique in history, for never before has such a splendid tribute been paid to the memory of a man of science.

The invitations to attend the celebrations were issued jointly by the rector and council of the University of Paris and the rector and council of the University of Strasbourg. The celebrations began on May 24 in Paris with an evening reception tendered by the President of the Republic at the Palace of the Élysée, where a large and distinguished company consisting of diplomatic and scientific representatives from practically all parts of the world were assembled.

On the morning of May 25 Dr. Roux and his colleagues at the Institut Pasteur held a reception, after which the visitors defiled before the tomb of Pasteur, which was decked with floral tributes. Among these, there being many, may be mentioned the wreaths sent by the British Government and the Royal Society, the latter resting at the foot of the monument. Afterwards bronze commemorative medals were distributed among the guests, who had signed their names in a volume which will afford a valuable record of the occasion. Driving homeward along the Boulevard Pasteur, the vehicles conveying the guests halted for a short time in the Place Pasteur before the beflagged monument of Pasteur. In the afternoon the British delegates were summoned by invitations from the University of Paris and Association France-Grande-Bretagne to the "Salle des Autorités" at the Sorbonne, where a tablet commemorating the meeting of Lister and Pasteur was unveiled and the British Ambassador made an appropriate speech. Immediately thereafter followed the ceremonial gathering in the Grand Amphitheatre of the Sorbonne, about 2700 persons being assembled, in the presence of M. Alexandre Millerand, President of the Republic (Chairman), M. Paul Appell, rector of the Paris Academy and president of the council of the University of Paris, Government and academic representatives and others, the picture afforded being most impressive and recalling that painted by Rixens in commemoration of Pasteur's Jubilee in 1892, fine colour effects being afforded by the many academic robes and uniforms. The ceremony began with the singing of the Marseillaise by a large choir of girls to the accompaniment of the band of the Garde Républicaine, the whole audience standing at attention. M. Paul Appell, M. Léon Bérard (Minister of Education and Fine Arts) delivered speeches and were followed by the Papal Nuncio, who conveyed the Pope's blessing on the occasion. As Government delegates, Prof. W. H. Welch spoke on behalf of the United States and Sir Charles Sherrington on behalf of the British Empire; delegates from other countries followed, most of them reading speeches in a French that was difficult to follow. Finally M. Strauss, Minister of Hygiene, delivered an impassioned speech after the foreign delegates had severally presented congratulatory addresses on behalf of various universities and learned bodies, these being handed over unread with no semblance of order. Addresses were presented from the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh and Liverpool, the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of London and Edinburgh, and numerous other bodies.

On May 26 were issued postage stamps (values 10, 30, and 50 centimes) bearing the portrait of Pasteur. A reception was held at the Ecole Normale by M. Gustave Lanson, the director, and the guests were shown the "Cabinet Pasteur" with its interest-

ing mementoes of Pasteur's sojourn and activities at that institution. M. Lanson read out a hitherto unpublished letter of Pasteur's addressed to the French Ministry appealing for financial aid in the prosecution of his researches. This letter revealed the personality of Pasteur in a remarkable manner, his clearness of thought and marvellous prescience being strikingly exhibited; the whole audience was thrilled and felt that M. Lanson's opening words, that he was "about to let Pasteur himself speak to the audience," were indeed justified. It is to be hoped that the letter will soon be published. The company next walked to No. 10 rue des Feuilletines close-by, to witness the unveiling of a tablet upon the house where Pasteur lived as a student, and, finally, in the evening, a reception was given at the Hôtel de Ville by the Municipality of Paris. Here, as at the Élysée, there were representations by artists of the Comédie Française, and Opéra, etc., the recitation of two of Pasteur's speeches by M. Léon Bernard, of the Comédie, invoking much enthusiasm among the hearers. The speeches were those delivered by Pasteur (a) at Dôle in 1883, when a tablet was affixed to the house in which he was born, and (b) at the Sorbonne in 1892, on the occasion of his jubilee. An eloquent passage from the latter speech was frequently quoted by orators in the days that followed, and it may well be cited here from a printed copy which was thoughtfully distributed to the guests at the centenary celebration:

"Jeunes gens, jeunes gens, confiez-vous à ces méthodes sûres, puissantes, dont nous ne connaissons encore que les premiers secrets. Et tous, quelle que soit votre carrière, ne vous laissez pas atteindre par le scepticisme dénigrant et stérile; ne vous laissez pas décourager par les tristesses de certaines heures qui passent sur une nation. Vivez dans la paix sereine des laboratoires et des bibliothèques. Dites-vous d'abord: Qu'ai-je fait pour mon instruction? Puis, à mesure que vous avancerez: Qu'ai-je fait pour mon pays? jusqu'au moment où vous aurez peut-être cet immense bonheur de penser que vous avez contribué en quelque chose au progrès et au bien de l'humanité. Mais, que les efforts soient plus ou moins favorisés par la vie, il faut, quand on approche du grand but, être en droit de dire: J'ai fait ce que j'ai pu."

On Sunday, May 27, the Lycée Pasteur was inaugurated in the morning. In the afternoon l'Accueil Franco-Britannique and Dr. and Mme. Tuffier received the British delegates in the charming home of the latter, which, we may mention incidentally, contains a fine collection of pictures. In the evening there were gala representations at the Opéra and Théâtre Français in honour of the foreign delegates. Throughout France, ladies and schoolgirls collected money for the scientific laboratories of the country, some ten differently designed badges, mostly bearing the effigy of Pasteur, being pinned with the tricolor to persons who helped by contributions. All the badges were inscribed on the back with the words: "Journée Pasteur, mai 1923. Au profit des Laboratoires," and a quotation from Pasteur reading: "Sans laboratoires les savants sont des soldats sans armes."

On May 28 the guests were conveyed to the Palace of Versailles, where a banquet was held in the "Galerie des Batailles," some 900 persons participating under the presidency of M. Reibel, Minister of the Liberated Regions. The latter, in his speech, cited with special emphasis Pasteur's advice to men of science: "Luttons donc dans le champ pacifique de la science pour la prééminence de nos patries respec-

tives. Luttons, car la lutte c'est l'effort, la lutte c'est la vie, quand la lutte a le progrès pour but," adding that it was surely necessary that Pasteur's pronouncement should be repeated "in this Palace with its many significant associations." M. Reibel's speech was followed by those of diplomatic representatives which could not be heard by many because they were delivered across the centre of the very long gallery.

On May 29 some of the guests attended a morning presentation of the cinematograph film entitled "Pasteur" designed to popularise his work. In the afternoon the Institut de France held a garden party at Chantilly, the castle with its art treasures being thrown open for inspection.

Many left Paris on May 30 to attend the concluding ceremonies at Strasbourg, where in the evening a reception was held in the Palais du Rhin.

On May 31 a monument of Pasteur was inaugurated in front of the University of Strasbourg in the presence of the President of the Republic accompanied by M. Poincaré (Prime Minister), M. Strauss (Minister of Hygiene), M. Valéry-Radot and others, academic dress being worn by University representatives, a few of whom presented addresses to the University which they delivered into the President's hands. Orationes were delivered by M. Charléty (rector of the University), M. Haller (president of the Academy of Sciences), Prof. Bordet (Pasteur Institute, Brussels), and finally M. Millerand spoke with the eloquence of a practised orator in a voice that carried far, his speech being remarkably good. There followed a banquet at noon attended by some thousand persons at the Palais des Fêtes under the presidency of MM. Millerand and Poincaré, speeches that were more or less audible being delivered by the Mayor of Strasbourg, M. Alapetite (Commissioner General of the Republic), M. Strauss, and others. Following upon the banquet the company assembled at the Palais du Rhin, the ex-Emperor's former palace, to witness the procession of Alsatian Societies before the President; it was a stirring sight, which deeply moved all beholders, to see the representatives from all parts of Alsace and Lorraine, lads and maidens dressed in the characteristic costumes of their districts stepping along briskly hand in hand to the music of numerous bands that accompanied them, while a deeper note was struck as veterans of the War and of the war of 1870 defiled past, all saluting the President of the Republic. There followed the opening ceremonies at the Pasteur Museum and the International Exhibition of Hygiene and an evening reception at the Hôtel de Ville given by the Mayor of Strasbourg. Speeches were made in connexion with these ceremonies, those delivered by Prof. Borrel (Commissary General of the Exhibition) and M. Poincaré being the most notable. The scene at the Hôtel de Ville was remarkable when, from the balcony, M. Millerand addressed the populace assembled in the square and twenty thousand people with upturned faces sang the Marseillaise to the accompaniment of massed bands; it was a sight which none who witnessed it can forget.

The Comité du Centenaire de Pasteur was responsible for all arrangements and, except in minor matters, did their work admirably. The programme was rather overfilled and no lists were available to aid the participants in discovering the names of those who attended the celebrations. A reduction of 50 per cent. was allowed on the cost of tickets from the frontier to Paris, while free first-class return tickets were issued between Paris and Strasbourg to those who had been invited. During two days of the festivities in Paris motor omnibuses were to be found at seven "points de concentration"

chosen with regard to the hotels at which delegates resided, thereby affording a very convenient way of transporting them to the various places where ceremonies took place, gentlemen from the Pasteur Institute and others serving as guides to the different parties. Special trains and motor transportation were, moreover, provided for the excursions to Versailles and Chantilly.

Owing to the short time that was at the disposal of the organisers, the Pasteur Museum and the Exhibition at Strasbourg were scarcely ready for inspection, the majority of the exhibits still remaining in their packing cases, this being indeed unfortunate. It is therefore inexpedient to attempt a description of the few objects that could be seen.

Those who attended the celebrations brought away mementoes of the occasion apart from the medal which they received at the Institut Pasteur. Of printed matter may be mentioned the "Souvenir des Fêtes Nationales de la Commémoration du Centenaire de la Naissance de Pasteur, célébrés à Paris, en Franche-Comté et à Strasbourg du 24 au 31 mai, 1923" (Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 1923). This includes a chronology of Pasteur's chief discoveries (1847-1885), a facsimile of his birth certificate, three portraits of Pasteur at different ages, pictures of his birthplace, homes, and grave, striking citations from his writings, and a facsimile autograph and signature reading: "La grandeur des actions humaines se mesure à l'inspiration qui les fait naître. L. Pasteur, 27 mars 1887." The tasteful menu at the Versailles banquet and the programmes at the gala performances on May 27 bore an excellent profile portrait of Pasteur in flat relief, stamped on silvered paper, reproduced after the well-known plaque by O. Roty. The programmes distributed at Dr. Tuffier's reception and at the Hôtel de Ville bore the finely reproduced profile head of Pasteur executed by R. Lalique. At a private dinner given to some of the delegates, M. Calmette distributed to his guests some finely wrought silver medals bearing Pasteur's head modelled by G. Prudhomme and bearing the dates 1822-1922. It should be mentioned, to avoid confusion, that the national celebration was somewhat belated. In point of date, the true centenary had been previously celebrated in December 1922 at the Institut Pasteur, but these celebrations were, however, more of a domestic character.

During the festivities in Paris, the President of the Republic with a small party left for Franche-Comté, where, on May 26, he visited the house in which Pasteur was born at Dôle, attended a ceremony before Pasteur's monument there and participated at a soirée at Lons-sur-Sonier. On May 27 the presidential party visited the parental house of Pasteur at Arbois and attended ceremonies at Salins and Besançon, university functions at Besançon following on May 28 and 29, *i.e.* prior to the advent of the party in Strasbourg.

It may be mentioned incidentally that the Société de Biologie of Paris celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of its foundation on May 26-28, it being arranged that its meetings should clash as little as possible with those relating to the Pasteur centenary. Nevertheless, the present writer unfortunately found it impossible to attend both functions because time for rest was required between the events that constituted the very full programme.

Those who participated in the celebrations above described in a somewhat inadequate manner will have brought away, as did the writer, a delightful recollection of having revived friendships and established firmly new ties across the water.

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