

PREFACE

As Chairman of the British Society of Audiology it is my pleasure to welcome you, the speakers and participants, to this Symposium on Sound Reception in Mammals—our first meeting in association with the Zoological Society of London.

I wish to express our appreciation to the Zoological Society who enthusiastically took up our original suggestion of this meeting and have kindly, and generously, supported the recommendations of the small joint organizing committee consisting of Dr Bench, Dr Ade Pye and Professor Pye. Dr Vevers, the Assistant Director of the Zoological Society, and his staff have been particularly helpful in arranging the meeting. Of course the British Society of Audiology is by far the junior of the two societies in age and in membership, and I should like to express my great admiration of the expertise in detailed organization that accompanies your extra years of experience. It certainly gives a smaller society a model on which to work. You will see from the programme that the generosity of the Zoological Society has extended to giving the British Society of Audiology the nomination of the four chairmen of sessions, as well as to myself the privilege of giving this welcoming address.

For the benefit of our hosts today, may I briefly explain that the British Society of Audiology is just seven years old, but apparently is fulfilling a demand for an exchange of knowledge in the field of hearing in that it has the support of a very active membership of about 550, has branches in Scotland and the North of England, and arranges some 15 scientific meetings each year. It also has its own journal called the British Journal of Audiology. Because many disciplines have a contribution to make to audiology, and zoology is certainly no exception, two or three of these meetings are arranged jointly with other societies, as with those of the acousticians, the psychologists, the otologists, the teachers of the deaf and the speech therapists, to name a few. In these circumstances, our audience has exceeded 200 on many occasions and the papers have achieved a high standard of excellence.

Many such workers in audiology are participants today and, as well as zoologists, we are also to be addressed by a pathologist, a neurophysiologist and an engineer. Such is the breadth of audiology.

My welcome would be incomplete without particularly mentioning our three guest speakers from abroad. Dr E. Borg

(Stockholm, Sweden), Dr G. Salomon (Copenhagen, Denmark) and Dr V. Vuorenkoski (Kokkola, Finland). We especially acknowledge your interest which has caused you to take time away from your own busy activities to tell us of your work. We also have present a number of other distinguished workers from countries farther afield. Again, welcome, we are honoured by your presence.

Finally, I hope all participants will enjoy this symposium and find much of value to them academically, and perhaps socially as well, in these beautiful surroundings of the Zoological Gardens.

J. J. KNIGHT

London

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