those who could find them in the maze of rooms in the three congress hotels.

On the fourth day a morning was devoted simultaneously to syphilis and to a general session on STD education. Much interesting research on *Treponema pallidum* was reported, and for those more interested in education, the objectives, evaluation, and practice of public health education on STDs were discussed at length.

On the last day a major research symposium on STD vaccines, antigenic determinants, and immune responses was attended by a packed auditorium. The situation concerning gonorrhoea was reviewed by Dr E Tramont (USA) and group B streptococci by Dr D Kasper. Owing to the illness of Dr W Szmunes his paper on hepatitis B was presented by Dr P E Taylor (Canada). An excellent review of other potential STD vaccines was given by Dr G Schoolnick (USA), and the session ended with a thought-provoking discussion paper on "Perspectives for public health usage of STD vaccines" by Dr K K Holmes (USA).

The formal sessions ended with a special update paper by Dr James Curran (USA) on Kaposi's sarcoma and the reports that the condition had been diagnosed in a

number of homosexual men. The cause is unknown and the condition has been fatal in some of the patients.

It was fitting that the Parran Award for outstanding work on venereal diseases was given to Dr James Curran by the president of the American Venereal Diseases Association, and a number of awards were made by the Latin American Union against the Venereal Diseases.

The congress was finally closed with some concluding remarks by the chairmen of the various sections of the executive committee. Dr R St John (USA) announced that the executive committee was now dissolved but a recommendation had been made that a second world congress should be organised in about four to five years' time in view of the great success of the present congress.

Dr R D Catterall (London) thanked all those who had been concerned with the organisation of the congress and had contributed to the great success of the meeting and in particular Dr R St John (USA), who had been the main organiser of the whole congress and was responsible for the detailed planning and smooth running of all the sessions. But the originator of the idea and the man who had really made it all

possible was Dr Yamil Kouri (Puerto Rico). Dr Catterall presented Dr Kouri with an engraved wall plaque, commemorating the congress, on behalf of all the delegates and participants and congratulated him on the very great success of the first world congress on sexually transmitted diseases.

During the course of the congress the International Union against the Venereal Diseases and Treponematoses held two executive committee meetings, which were both well attended. The American Venereal Diseases Association also held a meeting.

There was an excellent social programme during the day time; a reception-cocktail party, an evening Rum Swizzle party, a banquet, and big band dance were all highly successful and well attended.

It was generally agreed that the congress had been an unqualified success and had contributed greatly to the understanding of the many problems associated with the sexually transmitted diseases. It had also acted as a stimulus to all those working in the field and should be a reminder to politicians and health care administrators that this problem will require increased resources both now and in the future.

R D Catterall
(president, IUVDT)

Book review

Sexually Transmitted Diseases. By Mohamed Farid, 1981. Ain Shams University Press, Cairo, Egypt. Pp 647. Price not stated.

The author of this large volume is assistant professor of dermatology and venereology. His book has been published by his own University Press in Cairo but nevertheless appears to have been written in the United Arab Emirates, where he is also head of the department of dermatovenereology at the Military Hospital, Abu Dhabi. He has achieved a clear and comprehensive presentation of the sexually transmitted diseases, their problems and management, expressing views which are generally accepted in western countries. This is not surprising as it reflects well the information

in the 175 or so world references quoted. In some 30 instances, however, passages or even whole paragraphs, with scant acknowledgement, have been taken verbatim or virtually so from *Sexually Transmitted Diseases* (C B S Schofield, 3rd ed, Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1979). Nevertheless, it could be a very useful vehicle to convey current trends in sexually transmitted diseases to physicians in the Middle East.

The chapters are conventionally arranged and cover chlamydial and the various viral infections, with a closing appendix on techniques and normal values of body fluids. There is also a chapter on the mechanism of erection and ejaculation, which devotes some space to priapism and its treatment but curiously makes no mention of im-

potence. Two short historical sections on syphilis and gonorrhoea list many famous people who are stated to have had these diseases.

The printing style is that of a double-spaced typewriter with only about half the usual number of lines per page, which results in a larger volume than usual. There are eight pages of colour pictures and a few diagrams. With the reservations already expressed there is much good sense in its contents, which read well with a commendable lack of embellishment. There are, however, some 60 noted errata (nearly all of spelling), some of which might have passed unnoticed had a slip detailing them not been supplied with the book.

R R Willcox