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Editorial

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EDITORIAL**The International Society of Criminology**

Before the First World War, international criminological congresses were held at fairly regular intervals. They grew out of the stimulation to research given by the criminal anthropologists, and owed their origin to the efforts of Lombroso and his co-workers in organizing the first of these congresses of "criminal anthropology" in Rome in 1885, taking advantage of the fact that the International Prison Congress met in that city the same summer. The last of these gatherings, which were almost exclusively attended by Europeans, was held in Cologne in 1912. The First World War put an end to international co-operation in this field. The International Prison Congress resumed its quinquennial sessions in 1925 and an International Association of Penal Law was organized by jurists of Allied nations, who broke away from the older International Criminalist Society founded by Prins, Van Hamel, and Liszt in 1889, but not until 1935-36 were any efforts made to resume international intellectual co-operation in the criminological field, strictly speaking. The result was a criminological congress held in Rome in 1938, attended by about 1500 persons. This congress voted to establish an International Society of Criminology, but the war again interrupted these efforts. (See "The International Congress of Criminology," page 755 in our preceding number.)

On January 5-7, a meeting was held in Paris attended by representatives of fourteen nations (among them Great Britain, France, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria, and Portugal) and of WHO, UNESCO, the International Prison and Penal Law Commission, the International Police Commission, and the International Association of Criminal Law. A constitution was drafted and tentatively adopted, and those present, constituting themselves the first general assembly of the Society, elected officers, a governing board, and laid plans for the Second International Congress of Criminology to be held in Paris next year. The seat of the society was transferred from Rome to Paris. Professor di Tullio (Rome) was elected president, Professor Donnedieu de Vabres (Paris) and Dr. Carroll (London) were elected vice-presidents, and Mr. Piperot d'Alleume (Paris) general secretary. Professor Thorsten Sellin, University of

Pennsylvania, was elected a member of the Governing Board and was appointed by the Executive Committee to represent the Society in its consultative relationships with the Economic and Social Commission of the UN. He is the American delegate of the committee to organize the Second International Congress of Criminology to be held in Paris in 1950. Together with the general secretary, Professor Sellin will serve as the Society's representative at the Second Pan-American Congress of Criminology in Mexico City in the autumn of this year.

The criminologists of the United States were conspicuously absent at the international congresses held in the past (except the International Prison Congresses). It is certainly most desirable that they should be well represented at the coming Paris Congress and in the membership of the Society. Inquiries should be addressed to Professor Sellin.

ROBERT H. GAULT
