The next Politzer meeting in London September 2009 will be important not only for the scientific level of the presentations thanks to the work of the organizing committee, but also for the strategic decisions that the board and the general assembly will have to take. It is my pleasure to invite you to have an active part in the Politzer Society meeting in taking place between the 3rd, and 5th of September, 2009, in London. With my warmest regards
Prof. Dr. Jacques Magnan

27th Politzer Society Meeting

It is a great pleasure to welcome all the Politzer Members and our guests to London for the 27th Meeting of the Politzer Society. The format remains as in former years, not too many parallel sessions and time for discussion. We have chosen Chairmen who will hopefully be active and incisive. The Politzer Society Meeting allows discussion to co-exist with presentation. Our programme covers all aspects of Otology from cutting edge technologies to protocols covering routine interventions. Do enjoy London itself, the social programme is never to be repeated. Remember we may be Europeans, Asians, Africans, Australians and Americans but at Politzer we are all just Politzer Members and guests.
Prof. Dr. Alec F. O’Connor

If you have not yet registered, please visit www.politzersociety.org

Do you know that it is possible to view all the abstracts of the last ten years’ Politzer Society Meetings? Please visit our webpage: www.politzersociety.org
In 1971 the ENT-Department of the Gummersbach City Hospital put up International Symposium on middle ear surgery in the Theodor Heuss Academy.

Gummersbach City is located near Cologne on the River Rhine. The cosy Hotel Heedt nearby provided first class accommodation. The basic permanent group of lecturers, called “The Gummersbach Group” involved in a temporal bone course included as a part of the symposium. Zeiss provided the group up to date microscopes for all participants. It was at this time that the ear surgeons worldwide were looking for a color TV-system to be mounted onto the Zeiss microscope. Phillips presented the first qualified camera to test in Gummersbach. The closed circuit color TV was appreciated very much. Surgery of the chronically infected ear using the Posterior Tympanotomy technique with tympanoplasty and other techniques were translated live from the operating theater to the audience in excellent quality. The symposium “Middle Ear Surgery” was excellently moderated by S.M. Strong.

Well known guest lecturers completed the Gummersbach Group and made the symposium a great success.

The succeeding symposia attracted an increasing number of participants and introduced the problem of accommodating the participants at local hotels.

"The Group" decided to found the Politzer Society in order to follow the aims of the scientific program in a sufficiently sized organization. The following names represent the members of the group who founded the Politzer Society:

D.F. Austin, USA, C. Jako USA, C.W. Jansen, Germany, J. Marquet, Belgium, Jacob Sade, Israel, G.D.L. Smyth, North Ireland, S.M. Strong, USA. Elected as the first president, Claus Jansen was chosen to be chairman of the First Politzer Meeting in Davos: "Tympanoplasty, Art and Science, Review of 25 years" Guests of Honor: M. Arslan, Italy, E.H. Majer, Austria, George E. Shambaugh jr., USA, H.L. Wullstein, Germany.

The aim of the conference was to serve as a forum for ear, nose and throat surgeons particularly interested in chronic middle ear disease and its surgical treatment including tympanoplasty. The program committee voted for the title, realizing that after many years microsurgery of chronic middle ear disease and in spite of great progress, a host of problems remain. The complicated correlation between chronic middle ear surgery as a more destructive procedure and tympanoplasty as a reconstructive microsurgery technique is representative of a discussion which is still going on.

The conference intended to give up-to-date reviews by means of plenary sessions and various panel discussions. New ideas were presented in the same way as well as in the free paper sessions and movies.

The first international conference in Davos was a great successful event for the Politzer Society. The audience represented a significant number of interested ear surgeons from many countries. Scientific discussions of a highly qualified standard were greatly appreciated by the guests as well as by the participants; The first step into the future of the Politzer Society was made with relative ease and seems to hold great promise for the future.

I should like to express my deep regret for the loss of our friends and colleagues J. Marquet and G.D.L. Smyth who thought their inspiration and much hard work made such a vital contribution to the success of the Politzer Society. Their names will no doubt live on to inspiration to future operations.

Claus Jansen, 2000