# Welcome

By Abraham Shulman, M.D., Chairman

On behalf of the Division of Otolaryngology, I wish to welcome you to the 'First International Tinnitus Seminar'.

This seminar—'The First International Tinnitus Seminar'—is an expression of the expectations and goals of our staff to the team approach of those professionals dedicated to learning the basic mechanisms involved in tinnitus; the control of the complaint of tinnitus; the relationship of tinnitus to the control and maintainence of hearing.

The splendid attendance today is an expression of the dedication of all professionals for understanding the treatment and control of tinnitus.

This seminar is dedicated to Dr. Samuel L. Kountz, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery of the Downstate Medical Center, whose foresight, interest and support have been a constant source of inspiration for our staff. His leadership has been responsible for the rapid growth and development of the Division of Otolaryngology. The seminar is an expression of this development.

## Welcoming Address

By Calvin H. Plimpton, M.D.

(President, Suny Downstate Medical Center, New York)

It is a privilege to welcome you here to the First International Tinnitus Symposium. May you tintinabulate most successfully! It is an honor for Downstate to be in some measure a host, and in many measures a sponsor through the good offices of Dr. Abe Shulman. As a layman in your field and as an unemployed gland doctor—pill pedlar, hand-patter, internist if you will—I have great respect for sound. In 'Love's Labours Lost' Armado said:

'Warble child; make passionate my sense of hearing.'

And hearing is a passionate sense. It seems still to hold true that the blind are generally cheerful whereas the deaf are morose, even when they are composing Beethoven symphonies!

But your symposium on tinnitus is a lot more complicated than just a matter of hearing. Remember our own days of exploring caves and of finally getting in far enough to that awful, utterly spooky silence, so complete it enveloped us; and then when the lantern went out, the auditory hallucinations danced through our heads. Of course, as children we did not know what to call this. Now we cite sensory deprivation.

But there are many here who are younger and who have never even been in a cave or had this experience. Perhaps, though, they have been in an anechoic chamber—utterly silent—and then when the lights turned out their hallucinations started too.



https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022215100600890 Published online by Cambridge University Press