

It is advised that applications for tickets for the *Conversazione* should be made at once to prevent possible disappointment.

The First Lecture of the Session was given on Friday, the 17th inst., by Dr. Bezly Thorne, on "The Open Air Treatment of Phthisis, at Falkenstein, in the Taunus Mountains in Germany." Miss de Pledge took the Chair, and there was a large number of members present.

In opening the subject the lecturer endeavoured to prove that, although trained Nurses, at the present time, play but a small part in the treatment of phthisis, it would probably prove, if the treatment under consideration came into general use in this country, especially among the poorer members of the community, to be as much a "Nurses' Disease" as enteric fever is recognised to be. He then proceeded to show that the method practised at Falkenstein and in similar institutions is not based on rigid adherence to one exclusive therapeutic measure, but on recourse to all available medical and hygienic resources adapted to the temperament as well as the physical and morbid conditions presented by each individual and ascertained by careful observation on the part of the physician. Having given a description of the beautiful surroundings of the establishment, which is situated at a height of some 1,400 feet above the sea level, and of the care which has been taken to ensure perfect sanitation, a faultless water supply, and a liberal and attractive diet, he proceeded to explain that each patient, except under conditions of acute pulmonary inflammation, is induced to pass the entire day of twenty-four hours under the influence of the open air. Between the hours of eight in the morning and ten at night they are expected to be out of doors, except during meal times, either reclining on comfortable deck-chairs placed under a verandah or in beds placed on a balcony, or in the grounds or neighbouring mountain walks, while bedroom windows are allowed to be closed only during the processes of dressing and undressing. Those patients who are judged able to bear it, enjoy, every morning, the luxury of a shower bath of specified duration, which has an excellent effect in inducing tolerance of cold, in improving the appetite, and raising the tone of the nervous system. The measures of domestic hygiene include the absolute prescription of the use of brooms and brushes, and the substitution of wet and damp cloths for purposes of cleaning and dusting; the prohibition of expectoration, except under specified conditions, calculated to obviate the distribution of bacilli and other impurities; and periodic veterinary inspection of the cowhouses and their bovine occupants. A warm tribute was paid to Dr. Dettweiler, the accomplished physician who presides over the establishment, and in a large measure directs its administration, with as much sympathy and kindness as judgment and firmness. Statistics were then quoted to show that the incidence of phthisis in this country is influenced in but a very trifling degree by climatic

conditions, while, on the other hand, the mortality from that disease was shown to have diminished during a period of forty years by little less than one half, presumably by reason of the adoption of better public sanitation and more rational methods of treatment; while, on the other hand, figures and data were produced to show that the breathing of impure air, especially under conditions of mental strain, overwork, and insufficient food, exercise a potent determining influence. At this point, Dr. Thorne made a digression in order to draw attention to the importance of relieving Nurse Probationers of unnecessary menial work, and of securing to them a reasonable amount of fresh air and recreation, together with a thoroughly nutritious diet. It was then shown that the percentage of complete and relative cures yielded by the Falkenstein statistics was something over twenty-four, and that the average duration of a "cure" in that establishment is 142 days, as compared with 335 in institutions conducted on different principles. In conclusion, Dr. Thorne drew attention to the fact that the cantonal authorities of Basel and the municipality of Paris, after careful enquiries conducted by experts, have decided to found similar institutions at the cost of the public funds, and he expressed the conviction that it would be well if the great trade organisations of this country directed some of the large funds at their disposal, and which are often expended in such a manner as to bring want instead of plenty to the homes of the workers, to be devoted to the institution of similar establishments for the benefit of their members, and their suffering wives and children.

Much interest was shown in the lecture, and, at its conclusion, a number of questions were asked by those present, to which the lecturer replied, and with a vote of thanks to him, the meeting terminated.

DAISY ROBINS,
Secretary and Registrar.

A Pioneer in Nursing.

The four great pioneers of Nursing have made a world-wide and lasting reputation of noble deeds. Where is the Probationer who does not know these honoured names—Florence Nightingale, Founder of Scientific Nursing; Florence Sarah Craven, *née* Lees, whose great work has been done in organizing the Nursing of the Sick Poor in their own homes; Agnes Jones, pioneer in nursing the sick in our Poor-Law Infirmarys; and Dora Pattison, who did a great work in popularising the Cottage Hospital system? It is in the second of these heroines that the Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association will feel a deep interest at this moment—announced as it is, in another column, that she has become a Member of that body corporate—and that they will, for the future, enjoy the privilege of her advice and help in the organization of Nursing as a Profession.

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