

Annotations.

BRITISH CONGRESS ON TUBERCULOSIS.

A British congress on Tuberculosis will be held in the Queen's Hall, London, from Monday, July 22, to Friday July 26, of this year. The work of the congress will be divided into four sections as follows:—(1) State and municipal, presided over by Sir Herbert Maxwell, M.P.; (2) medical, including climatology and sanatoria, Sir Douglas Powell presiding; (3) pathological, including bacteriology—president, Professor Sims Woodhead; (4) veterinary (tuberculosis in animals)—president, Sir George Brown. Public addresses will be given to the whole congress on July 23 by Professor Koch, of Berlin; on July 24 by Professor Brouardel, of Paris; on July 25 by Professor McFadyean, of the Royal Veterinary College. On July 26 there will be a final meeting to pass resolutions arising out of the work of the congress. Lord Derby has intimated his desire to receive the members of the congress at a reception to be given by him on one of the evenings. In connection with the congress it has been decided to form a temporary museum illustrating the pathology treatment or prevention of tuberculosis.

No doubt many trained nurses will make an effort to be present on this instructive occasion.

THE "TWENTCENT" HOSPITAL.

Why is the official mind almost invariably of a Conservative type? That it is so is beyond question, witness the fact that it is even now not uncommon to find great Metropolitan Hospitals unconnected with the public telephone. As a business woman we are unable to understand how, in these days the work of these institutions can be conducted without the use of this necessary appliance. But further, the residences of the visiting staff, who have frequently to be hurriedly summoned to perform critical operations, or for consultation in medical emergencies, are as a rule several miles distant from the hospitals which they visit, and valuable time, when every moment is of importance, is taken in communicating with them. We are aware of the custom of despatching a porter in a cab with a letter to the residence of the medical man in demand, but it will hardly commend itself to practical people in these days. Another strong reason for urging the installation of telephones in our hospitals is that in case of accident an

ambulance could at once be summoned. But then, that would necessitate the establishment of an efficient ambulance service, which, so far, is non-existent in this metropolis except in connection with the Metropolitan Asylums Board. Hospital authorities, at present, appear to see no reason why compound fractures should not be dragged in and out of growlers, and jolted for miles in these same pre-historic conveyances. If the twentieth century hospital desires to retain the confidence of subscribers it will have to keep abreast with the times and manage its business by up to date methods.

THE PLAGUE AT CAPE TOWN.

The news of the alarming increase of cases of plague at the Cape is of grave significance and demands the adoption of prompt and vigorous measures. We have so far heard of no systematic organisation on the part of the Government for the nursing of these cases, but, we should like to point out the necessity for the enrolment on the spot, or of the despatch from home, of a special corps of nurses, working under a qualified superintendent, for the care of the sufferers from this disease. Experience has taught us the great value of good nursing in plague and, further, if such cases are not isolated, and disinfection systematically carried out, the centre of infection at the Cape, which is at present capable of control, may increase to such proportions as to be a menace to the world.

OUR OPEN SPACES.

Now that Christ's Hospital is about to be demolished the question as to the future of the site is of moment to the citizens of London. This historic plot in the heart of the Metropolis cannot be sold without the express sanction of Parliament, but a Bill for this purpose has now been brought before it, to which, we are glad to see, Sir Robert Hunter is urging resolute opposition. Everyone who realises the boon to London of the few open spaces which remain to it will support this opposition. The Postman's Park near by shows what excellent use can be made of a small space so that it may be a rest for the weary, as well as a delight to the eye, forming as it does, a green oasis amongst the buildings which surround it. The best destination for the site of Christ's Hospital is, that it should be secured for a much needed extension of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, for which purpose it is ideally situated.

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