

stress on this advance because the result is, in no small measure, due not only to improved surgical skill but to the watchful care of nurses trained in antiseptic methods. So, also, the value of trained nursing is exemplified in those other surgical procedures which are now so frequently employed with success for the cure of tubercular diseases of the kidneys, of the joints, of the lungs, and of other organs; operations which are, in fact, only successful because the efforts of surgical skill are assisted by careful nursing and not, as in former days, retarded or rendered impossible by want of adequate and efficient after-care.

It is in the treatment of Consumption itself that medical nursing, in the future, will probably achieve its greatest triumph. Indeed, we have little hesitation in believing that the success of the modern and rational treatment of this fell disease will be found to depend almost entirely upon the nursing. When it is remembered that this treatment depends upon the elevation of the constitutional condition of the patient by means of hygienic and dietetic measures, rather than by the administration of many medicines, it will be understood how great a part trained nursing must play in its success or failure. Then, again, the patient who is treated by what is called the open-air treatment, is to a large extent dependent upon the nurse's care and watchfulness, and still more is this the case with those in whom the treatment by forced feeding is pursued. Here, just as in cases of typhoid fever, in which the cardinal importance of nursing is universally admitted, or in cases of the Weir-Mitchell treatment of neurasthenia, in which the efforts of the nurse are equally acknowledged, the carefulness and judgment of the nurse will become all-important. It will always be impossible for these cases to be treated merely by a rule of thumb, for the personal equation dominates the problem. For instance, some can take beef, but not mutton; others cannot take bacon, but they can take ham; others will not take milk, but can digest cream easily. No one could discover the manifold idiosyncrasies which every patient possesses, except a trained observer in daily and hourly attendance upon them; and the whole feature of the treatment consists in the patient being coaxed into eating four or five times as much as he would take in the ordinary course; whilst, at the same time, the appetite has to be stimulated and the functions of the body not be permitted to be clogged.

Annotations.

THE CONGRESS ON TUBERCULOSIS.

On Monday, surrounded by a most distinguished audience, the Duke of Cambridge opened, at St. James's Hall, in the name of His Majesty the King, the British Congress of Tuberculosis, and during the week the *savants* of every nation have been earnestly engaged in discussing from every point of view the nature, treatment, prevention, and cure of this most ruthless scourge, which is responsible for more deaths annually than any other disease.

All the sections have been crowded throughout the week, and as these included State and Municipal Medicine, Climatology, Pathology, including Bacteriology, and Veterinary Sections, it is certain that a vast amount of knowledge on the subject has been presented and submitted to expert consideration, and that excellent results must accrue.

The Museum at Queen's Hall, the most instructive catalogue of which is compiled and edited by Dr. Jobson Horne, and which contains a stupendous amount of information in reference to the exhibits. In Section I. Bacteriology and Pathology of Tuberculosis; Section II. Statistics, Diagnosis, Therapy, and Prophylaxis of Tuberculosis. In this latter department such practical details as Open-air Treatment, Ventilation, and Apparatus for Rendering Milk innocuous, were dealt with.

The social side of the Congress was made very festive with dinners, conversazioni, river trips and country visits. Great credit is due to the Hon. Secretary-General, Mr. Malcolm Morris, and the organizing Council. The whole Congress was splendidly arranged and organized in every particular, and all the delegates owe them gratitude for the ease with which they were thus enabled to take part in this great and important gathering—and for the immense amount of instruction and pleasure they have enjoyed.

"OLE CLO."

A nursing sister writes from a general hospital in South Africa to remove a false impression which, she says, seems to prevail in England in regard to the needs of her fellow-workers. She says: "We have been much amused, and, I may add, somewhat annoyed, at receiving from England a parcel of undergarments, &c., 'for the nursing sisters of No. —

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