

the congregation of persons suffering from tuberculosis had upon the patients themselves. Were they depressed by seeing others whom they knew to be suffering from their own complaint in a more advanced, or even a hopeless, stage of the disease. Also she would like to know the effect of the outdoor life upon the patients, and of the long walks. A walk of from fifteen to twenty miles was tiring to a healthy person. What was its effect upon one suffering from disease?

Miss CHILD (Buluwayo) and Miss GREENLAW (Newport) also took part in the discussion.

Replying to the various points raised, Miss Todd said that the precautions against infection in consumptive hospitals were so extreme that she thought there was no danger to the nurses of contracting tuberculosis. She could only instance in proof of this belief the history of the National Sanatorium, Bournemouth, of which she was Matron. During a period of fifty years no nurse or servant in the institution had contracted consumption.

With regard to patients performing the domestic work of the hospital, she pointed out that such patients under modern treatment are, as a rule, supposed to be undergoing a treatment of rest out of doors, and she failed to see when they were to do the work. At the National Sanatorium, Bournemouth, all patients were required to rest both before and after meals. Neither were they allowed ever to be in their rooms when these were being swept or the beds were being made, because the dust was considered prejudicial to them, while lifting tubs of water and other weights could not be good for them. She agreed with Mrs. Fenwick that an experienced nurse was needed to supervise the nursing and manage the domestic department. If this were not so surely doctors might do the nursing with the assistance of housemaids.

As to other patients having a depressing effect upon those suffering from tuberculosis, Miss Todd pointed out that those suffering from the disease are proverbially hopeful, and they always think that others are worse than they are themselves. She did not think they were depressed by others around them. The great thing was to keep their minds occupied, and quiet games, such as croquet and chess and draughts, were useful in helping in this direction. She thought a moderate amount of exercise was good for consumptive patients. Experience seemed to prove that while those who were kept on a liberal diet and had little exercise, gained in weight and put on flesh, that flesh was mostly flabby fat, whereas those who took exercise put on muscle, and the improvement in the latter case was usually better maintained after they left the institution.

The value of Miss Todd's interesting paper was increased by the specimens of spittoons, paper handkerchiefs, etc., which she showed to the audience. As several members have enquired the prices of the combustible spittoons which Miss Todd then showed, she has kindly furnished these, as well as the name of the maker. For use dry without a disinfectant these spittoons cost 3s. 6d. per 100. Waterproof but not enamelled they are 5s. per 100, enamelled white and waterproof 10s. per 100. The address of the maker is Mr. George Fingerhant, 7, Mincing Lane, London, E.C.

The Royal British Nurses' Association.

THE ANNUAL BUTTER PARTY.

The Annual Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association took place at the Imperial Institute on Monday, June 16th. The President, Princess Christian, telegraphed that she was unable to be present, and, to the amazement of the members, the chair, which for years has been taken by a medical man, was for once occupied by a Matron, Miss Thorold, of Middlesex Hospital, vice-chairman. The meeting was also notable for the absence of many of the medical members who have taken a prominent part in the past in controlling the affairs of the Association.

Mr. Langton presented a Financial Report, which he described as "in every way most satisfactory." The Report showed an excess of expenditure over income of £90 18s. 8d. Mr. Langton endeavoured to explain the falling off in members' subscriptions by the absence of members who were at the front.

We observe in this Report that the subscriptions of members at 2s. 6d. amounted to £71 12s. 6d., at 5s. to £151 16s. (including proportion of Australian Fees). The total number of members who paid their subscriptions therefore cannot have been 1,170 out of over 3,000.

A somewhat back-handed compliment to Duchesses in general, and the Dowager Duchess of Marlborough in particular, was paid by Mrs. Dacre Craven, who congratulated Mr. Langton on getting a Duchess to give £100 towards the expenses of the Association. It was not often that ladies of high degree gave so much. Mr. Langton said he must contradict Mrs. Dacre Craven to some extent in her remarks about Duchesses. "Her Grace of Marlborough" had said that if they wanted more money they only had to ask her for it. The lady referred to as willing to subsidise the R.B.N.A. is "Lily Duchess," formerly a Mrs. Hammersley, of New York, and not the wife of the present Duke. The present members of the R.B.N.A. may appreciate their Annual Meeting being employed as the occasion for the eulogization of Duchesses, even if not born to the purple, and of the medical officials, for there was little other business done. It is scarcely to be wondered at however that nurses who desire to discuss professional matters turn their attention to other societies.

We are informed by a member who had received no notice of the meeting that she handed up a written protest to the Chairman that the meeting was in consequence illegal. It is needless to report that no notice was taken of the protest. *Vive liberté, égalité, fraternité* — especially *fraternité*.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)