

£423,936 15s. 10d., has made a bequest of £10,000 to the King's Hospital Fund, and legacies of £5,000 each are left to the Gordon Boys' Home, the Gordon College, Khartum, the City of Dublin Hospital, Dr. Barnardo's Homes, and the Hospital for Incurables, Donnybrook. The Rotunda Lying-in Hospital, the Temple Evangélique at Nice, the Masonic Orphan Boys' School and Masonic Female Orphan School, both at Dublin, and the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital at Dublin, each benefit to the extent of £2,000, and there are numerous other charitable bequests.

The treasurer of the Manchester Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Throat and Chest reports the receipt of £100 towards the Endowment Fund of the Crossley Sanatorium, Delamere, from Mr. S. A. Fulda, in memory of his son Frederick Anthony Fulda.

The particulars of a new anti-tuberculosis serum will shortly be communicated to the Paris Academy of Medicine by the discoverer, Dr. Marmorock, the chief of the laboratory of the Pasteur Institute, who some years ago gave to the world the serum used as a curative and preventive of puerperal fever.

The Governor of Mauritius reports twenty-eight cases of bubonic plague and twenty-five deaths from the disease in the week ended September 3rd.

Sir A. Hemming, in his annual report, on Turk's and Caicos Islands, says:—"There are no hospitals, asylums, or reformatories in the dependency. In case of need a suitable building in an isolated position is provided for the treatment of infectious diseases, which happily are of rare occurrence. The building has only been required once in the past eight years, and then only for treatment of two patients landed from a vessel in the harbour."

A complaint which cannot be identified with anything previously known has suddenly made its appearance in Cuba. It appears to be more nearly related to plague than anything else, but it is reported to be both swifter and much more deadly.

## The Congress of Hygiene and Demography.

The Universal Congress of Hygiene and Demography was opened at Brussels last week. Prince Albert of Belgium presided, and opened the Congress by a short address.

More than 500 delegates, according to Reuter, attended the Congress, including many eminent savants, representatives of different Governments, municipalities, and public health departments, and a large number of Belgian senators and deputies.

At the conclusion of the first sitting, Prince Albert opened the Exhibition of Hygiene and Demography at the Municipal School in the Rue de Louvain.

Dr. Martin, of the Pasteur Institute of Paris, read an interesting paper on the results obtained by sero-therapeutic processes in the cure of infantile diphtheria.

The means for combating plague were also discussed,

and it was agreed that the quarantine imposed on persons coming from countries infected with bubonic plague should be freed of its vexatious character, and that the evil could be combated more efficaciously by the institution of suitable sanitary services on board ships and by general international measures against the means by which plague was spread, including the extermination of rats likely to be infected.

An interesting debate took place on the theory of Dr. Koch that bovine tuberculosis is not transmissible to human beings.

Dr. De Jong, professor at Leyden University, delivered a long address, in which he gave reasons for believing that bovine tuberculosis was transmissible to human beings. Human tuberculosis, he pointed out, had many times been communicated to cattle by means of a general infection. The bacilli of human and bovine tuberculosis were identical in their effects, and consequently it was the duty of the public authorities to prevent the propagation of tuberculosis by unsound meat and infected milk.

The debate resolved itself largely into a controversy between the French and Belgian delegates on the one hand and the Germans on the other. The French and Belgians supported the thesis of the transmissibility of bovine tuberculosis to human beings, and the Germans contended that such transmissibility had not been proved.

Eventually the sections by a large majority passed the following resolution:—

"That human tuberculosis is perfectly transmissible from one person to another. Nevertheless, in the present state of our knowledge it is necessary to recommend hygienic measures for the prevention of the propagation of animal tuberculosis to the human species."

One of the sections had under consideration the question of miners' ankylostomiasis. A motion was adopted in favour of submitting miners to medical examination for this disease.

The bacteriological section was occupied in discussing preventive serums, while another section discussed the regulation and control of the sale of milk. The questions of health on board ships and the prophylactic measures against malaria were also discussed.

The insanitary condition of spinning factories was discussed, and the Congress carried a resolution, moved by Dr. Leclerc, embodying several technical regulations for improving the sanitary condition of the workrooms, and in favour of the age of admission being fixed at eighteen years.

Dr. Kuborn, the President, announced that negotiations had been opened between France and Belgium with a view to asking the Powers to establish an international Hygienic Commission, charged to inquire into the best methods of combating maladies contracted in special trades.

In the Colonial Section the doctors of the different nationalities represented gave an account of the sanitary measures adopted in the Colonies and the steps taken to establish a medical service among the native population.

A resolution was adopted urging international legislation for the purpose of improving the sanitary conditions under which workers carry on their employment.

Berlin was chosen as the seat of the next Congress in 1907.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)