The members of the Congress were well rewarded for their attendance, for the health from the many countries engaged not only the eye but the "why" and "how" in Nursing, and their views carried all the more weight for their own efficient practice.

This recent Congress measures the distance already travelled since its worthy Founder pioneered the world-think who are carrying the torch, particularly the Board of Directors and Council, let us be grateful. Their responsibility is greater than ever before, and we members of this great profession can help by remembering that at all times the efforts to raise our nursing standards must be backed by an attitude of mind that should know no frontiers.

M. B. M.

Thoracic Surgery in Ceylon.

British Government's Aid Under the Colombo Plan

Shortly after the setting up of the Technical Assistance Bureau (the "clearing house" for technical aid under the Colombo Plan), the Ceylon Government sought the advice on the most advanced techniques in combating tuberculosis. The United Kingdom Government made available the services of an eminent headchest specialist in thoracic surgery, Mr. Donald Barlow, who went to Ceylon in the winter of 1951 to survey the problem which faced the Government and suggest the lines on which the anti-tuberculosis campaign should be developed. Mr. Barlow was accompanied by Dr. Laurence Mountford, an anaesthetist, who assisted him in giving demonstrations of modern thoracic surgery. Mr. Barlow spent two months in Ceylon and suggested, among other measures, the setting up of a model Thoracic Surgery Unit in Colombo General Hospital, where the latest techniques of chest surgery could be put into practice and demonstrated to Ceylonese surgeons; the training of Ceylonese nurses for the work in the T.B. Wards; and postgraduate instruction for Ceylonese doctors.

The Ceylon Government acted on this advice and, through the Technical Assistance Bureau, asked the United Kingdom to provide a surgical team to help with the setting up of the Thoracic Surgery Unit, and to train doctors and nurses to run it themselves. In response to this request, a team was assembled and sailed for Ceylon in October, 1952, to spend six months in the island.

The team was led by Mr. Abbey Smith, F.R.C.S., Thoracic Surgeon to the Birmingham Group of Hospitals. He took with him Dr. Laurence Mountford; a Registrar, Dr. J. R. Edsall; a physiotherapist, Miss Thacker and a ward sister, Miss Walter, a Ceylonese surgeon, who was afterwards chest surgeon to London Chest Hospital; and, again through the Technical Assistance Bureau, asked for the services of three health visitors from the United Kingdom to go to Ceylon for three years to assist in the tuberculosis control programme. The Ceylon Government also took immediate action on Mr. Barlow's recommendations concerning hospital accommodation for T.B. patients and the establishment of more clinics. The building of light-constructed wards to accommodate 5,000 beds was put in hand and already several hundred additional beds have been provided. At Welisara Sanatorium, for instance, 20 new wards, containing 680 beds, have been built and an up-to-date pathological laboratory has been provided.

Other Commonwealth countries who are in the Colombo Plan are helping forward the tuberculosis control programme. India has made available facilities for training nine doctors from Ceylon, and the Australian Government provided a grant of £30,000 to finance the setting up of a number of new chest clinics.

At the request of the Government of Ceylon H.M. Government have now recruited two of the Health Visitors and steps are being taken to secure the services of a third Visitor specially trained in tuberculosis work. The two visitors, Miss I. Rippon and Miss Betty Ashby, sailed for Ceylon in the liner Himalaya on September 16th and will spend two years in Ceylon.

Miss Isabel Rippon has been a Health Visitor for the London County Council since 1949. She began her training as a nurse in Yorkshire in 1930, and served as a Staff Nurse in various hospitals until 1936. She served for two-and-a-half years in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and after a short period spent as Ward Sister in Goole Isolation Hospital, in Yorkshire, she was appointed Health Visitor to Lewisham Borough Council. She then spent a year in Yorkshire visiting tuberculosis cases and joined the staff of the London County Council in September, 1949.

Miss Betty Ashby did her nursing training at Portsmouth Royal Hospital from 1937 to 1941. She then took training in midwifery and joined the staff of the Central Middlesex Hospital. She trained as a Health Visitor at Battersea Polytechnic.