

The members of the Congress were well rewarded for their attendance, for the speakers from the many countries expounded not only "how" but the "why" 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 way. To those 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 Harley Street 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 post-graduate instruction for Ceylonese doctors.

The Ceylon Government acted at once on this advice and, again 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. R. 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 physio-therapist, Miss Thacker and a ward sister, Miss Walter, Mr. A. Paul, a Ceylonese surgeon, who was studying chest surgery at London Chest Hospital, also accompanied the team. A considerable amount of equipment for the Colombo Thoracic Unit, such as instruments and drugs, which were the gift of the United Kingdom Government was taken by the team, along with a complete "Pulmoflator," the most up-to-date apparatus for thoracic anaesthesia, of which there were, at that time, only two in existence, the other being in use at the London Chest Hospital. This apparatus, which was developed in the United Kingdom, was purchased by the Government of Ceylon.

When the time drew near for this team to return, the Ceylon Government asked the United Kingdom Government if they would provide a second thoracic surgery unit, to carry on where Mr. Abbey Smith and his helpers left off. The United Kingdom Government agreed. They arrived in Colombo on September 14th.

The second team is led by Mr. Bryan Moore, M.B., F.R.C.S., Thoracic Surgeon to the South-East Metropolitan Hospital Regional Board, who is consultant at the Brook Hospital, Grove Park Hospital and Preston Hall and other sanatoria. Accompanying him are Dr. I. C. W. English, anaesthetist to Brompton Hospital and Papworth Settlement; Dr. A. J. Palfrey, House Physician at University College Hospital, who will be Registrar for the team; Miss M. B.

Leese, Ward Sister of Brompton Hospital, and Miss F. E. Ramage of the Brook Hospital, Shooter's Hill, as ward sister and theatre sister respectively. They are joined in Colombo by Miss White, a physiotherapist from the United Kingdom, who is already in Ceylon.

When this training has been in progress in Ceylon, Ceylonese doctors and nurses have also been receiving specialist training in the United Kingdom. In February this year, 10 Ceylonese nurses arrived for a year's training in thoracic nursing at the Arlesey Branch of the London Chest Hospital. On completing the course, they will sit for the examination for the Tuberculosis Nursing Certificate of the British Tuberculosis Association. These nurses may be followed by others from Ceylon.

Studying thoracic surgery in Liverpool is Dr. T. D. H. Perera, who is taking an 18 months' course and Mr. A. Paul, who interrupted post-graduate training at the London Chest Hospital to accompany Mr. Abbey Smith's team is returning to the United Kingdom. Dr. Sivalingam, who left Ceylon in January, has just passed his Diploma course in Tuberculosis and Diseases of the Chest. Two other Ceylonese doctors, Dr. Vyranathan and Dr. Senorviratne arrived in the United Kingdom in April and have been studying in different hospitals in preparation for a specialised three-months' course in tuberculosis under Professor Heaf, at the Welsh National School of Medicine in Cardiff.

The United Kingdom Government are considering providing training in thoracic anaesthesia for a Ceylonese anaesthetist who is at present working with the British team in Colombo; and for post-graduate training for a number of Ceylonese T. B. specialists. The Ceylon Government have 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 construction 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 £300,000 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 Colombo 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.

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