

The National Association for the Prevention of Consumption.

AN influential meeting was held at Marlborough House on Tuesday afternoon last, at which the chair was taken by the Prince of Wales, with the object of furthering the aims of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption.

There were present the Marquis of Salisbury, the Earl of Rosebery, Sir William Broadbent, Bart., and many other persons of influence, both lay and medical.

His Royal Highness opened the proceedings by calling upon Sir William Broadbent, Chairman of the Association, to deliver a statement of its work.

In the course of an interesting speech, Sir William announced that the London partners of Messrs. Wernher and Beit had undertaken to erect and equip a sanatorium in London at a cost of £20,000.

Speeches in support of the movement were also delivered by Sir Grainger Stewart, President of the British Medical Association, Edinburgh; Dr. Moore, President of the Royal College of Physicians, Ireland; Sir James Sawyer, Birmingham; Dr. Andrew, President of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh; and Professor McPadyean, Principal of the Royal Veterinary College.

A resolution expressive of approval of the aims of the Association was proposed by Lord Salisbury and seconded by Sir Samuel Wilks, and a vote of thanks to the Prince was proposed by the Earl of Rosebery and seconded by Mr. Walter Long, M.P.

The objects of the Association are to arouse public interest in the opinions now promulgated that consumption is not necessarily the fatal disease which it has hitherto been supposed to be. The Members of the new Association, who already number 900, many of them being medical men, claim that there is a very fair prospect of curing tuberculosis if it is taken in time and properly treated. They also desire to impress the public mind with the fact that the disease is one which may be communicated through the medium of milk and meat, as well as by contact with a patient suffering from it. The infection in the later case is conveyed by means of the expectoration, which dries and turns into particles of dust; and, as such, circulates in any atmosphere. In short, the public is to be educated as to the means which may be taken to prevent tuberculosis, and how it should be treated when it does occur. This is one part of the work of the Association.

The second important work undertaken by it is the establishment of sanatoria in this country where patients may be treated, and it is hoped that, once established, these sanatoria will be self-supporting.

Many people will welcome the news that it is a well ascertained fact that consumption can be adequately treated within the limits of the British Isles. It is always sad to hear of the death of a consumptive in a foreign country. After the expense incurred, only made possible in many instances by the great self-denial of relatives, and having borne the discomfort of the voyage as best he may, with increasing weakness, many a man is put ashore in a foreign country to die, far away from friends and home. It is therefore good to know that these long journeys are no longer a necessity.

The thanks of the nation are due to the Prince of Wales for giving his powerful support to a movement which must be of the greatest national benefit.

Wives won't have Pretty Nurses.

THE subject of "Trained Nurses," which was discussed at the morning session on the third day of the Convention of the Federated Women's Club of the State of New York, aroused more interest than any other question under discussion during the Convention. The only prearranged speaker was Mrs. M. H. Willard, President of the Metropolitan Trained Nurses' Club, of Manhattan, who presented for discussion the following resolution: "That it would be an advantage to establish a uniform course of study in all training schools for nurses, and that a higher type of womanhood should be demanded in the candidates accepted for training."

There was general agreement of opinion on the first part of the resolution. With regard to the second it was urged that there was a necessity for a higher type of women as trained nurses, and faults were enumerated with which we are not altogether unfamiliar on this side of the Atlantic, as being the failings of nurses. Miss Anne Rhodes, who acted as secretary of the Women's War Relief Association in the recent war, gave it as her opinion that the nurse who was the best educated, and was a lady at heart, achieved the best results. Miss Rhodes also spoke in defence of nurses who demand \$25 a week for their services, and who had previously been unfavourably contrasted with the physician who frequently gives his services for nothing. She pointed out that it means much more to the nurse than to the physician to give her services, and, moreover, usually a nurse is a self-supporting woman, who is further, as a rule, aiding in the education of members of her family, and often trying to pay off a mortgage on her home.

But it was left to Mrs. Ravenhill to start the liveliest discussion of the Convention, by relating her experience of a family where the wife had a long illness and the nurse had a pretty face.

"You know how men are," said this lady. "They may be good enough men, but they do like to talk to a pretty woman. The husband in this particular family was no exception, and the result was that he and the pretty nurse talked so long over the breakfast-table that I had to take care of the wife. I think we ought to have a board of doctors and women to decide on a candidate's fitness to be a trained nurse."

Then up rose the wife of a physician, and vindicated the honour of the pretty nurses. Her husband was, she said, a physician, and they had two good-looking nurses in the house all the time. They never had any trouble on account of their looks.

Another delegate supported the suggestion of the appointment of a board of inspectors to decide upon the fitness of candidates. The doctors to pass judgment upon their intelligence, and the women members of the board to decide as to whether they were too pretty.

We are inclined to think, however, that the discussion did not touch the crux of the whole matter. There are women, with no sort of good looks, who play havoc with the susceptibilities of the male sex, and there are women most winsome who can hold their own with a rare dignity in the most difficult situations, and give no occasion to the enemy to blaspheme. It is the person, not her looks, which are all important. In nursing of all kinds the personality of the nurse is of moment, but, in private nursing an indiscreet woman does harm not only to herself, but to the profession to which she belongs.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)