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EDITED BY MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

No. 696.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1901.

VOL. XXVII.

**Editorial.**

THE LESSONS OF THE CONGRESS.

OUT of the large number of valuable papers read before the Congress, one stands out pre-eminent—the address delivered by Professor Koch of Berlin; and one practical Resolution has been passed, and it is much to be hoped will be cordially adopted and carried out by the public. For the moment, we will not discuss other and most important results of the Conference on Tuberculosis, but would content ourselves with the expression of hope, which must be universally felt, that the Congress will have aroused so great a public interest in the causes and prevention of Consumption that a determined effort may be made under the authority of the State in different countries to take more efficient measures, than have hitherto been employed, for the control and prevention of tubercular diseases. Certainly, the public have no reason to assume ignorance on this subject after the flood of light which has been poured upon it by means of the Press during the past week. They have been shown, in fact, that whilst war kills its hundreds, tuberculosis demands its many

thousands of victims each year; and, moreover, that sanitary science has, in the past forty years, so enormously lessened its death roll as to prove conclusively that it is as preventable a disease as small-pox or typhoid fever.

But, to consider for the moment, the chief assertion made by Professor Koch, it is no exaggeration to say that if it be proved to be true it is one of the greatest facts yet discovered in relation to this disease. In brief, the great German savant announced his conviction that tuberculosis was not conveyed to men by means of the meat or milk of animals. It is almost needless to remark that this is entirely opposed to the doctrine which has been held and taught in this country for many years past. The greatest precautions have been taken, in fact, to prevent the flesh of diseased animals or the milk from diseased cows being consumed by the public, on the ground that such products must be themselves diseased, and must therefore communicate the disease to any human body into which they came. With regard to milk, the analogy of the proved power of that fluid to convey the germs of scarlet fever and typhoid, and so produce those diseases in the healthy, has always been regarded as a power-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)