

### Annotations.

#### THE PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION.

The first International Conference of the Central Committee for the Prevention of Consumption was opened on Thursday in last week at Berlin in the buildings of the Prussian Diet. The chief countries represented were Germany, Great Britain, France, Russia, Austria, Spain, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium and America. The British delegates were Dr. Theodore Williams, appointed as a special delegate by His Majesty the King; Dr. Alfred Hillier and Dr. Nathan Raw, official delegates of the British National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis; and Dr. Heron.

Count von Posadowsky, Secretary for the Interior, in opening the Conference and welcoming the delegates, instanced Red Cross organisation as a magnificent example to the nations in the struggle against disease, and said that science had welded a fresh link in the solidarity of nations. The closer all countries were united in combating tuberculosis, the greater their success would be. Herr von dem Knesebeck, Grand Master of the Ceremonies, then welcomed the delegates in the name of the Empress.

In responding, Professor Brouardel invited the delegates, in the name of the French Republic, to meet in Paris next year. Dr. Williams, as senior delegate, replied on behalf of Great Britain, and delegates from Vienna, Genoa, Madrid, and Brussels having also responded, Professor Brouardel was elected chairman for the first sitting. Professor Fraenkel (Berlin) reviewed the development of the struggle against tuberculosis up to the establishment of the International Central Committee. 'This, he said, really began with Dr. Koch's discovery of the bacillus, but even now the subject was not fully understood. Tuberculosis was a great social question. It was undoubtedly a specific infection, and the closer people lived together the greater was the danger of infection. In conclusion, the Professor explained that when, at the Congresses of Paris, Naples and London, the idea of an International Congress arose, the German Central Committee had undertaken the work of organisation with the motto "Ich dien."

Special reports were then made by Professor Brouardel (France), Dr. Heron and Dr. Hillier (England).

The following measures for the prevention of tuberculosis were submitted by Dr. Hillier:—

1. Prohibition of expectoration under penalties.
2. Systematic notification of phthisis.
3. Efficient ventilation and lighting of all factories, and public and private buildings.
4. The establishment of sanatoria for tuberculous cases in early and advanced stages, and also for the treatment of phthisical cases.

The entire sitting on Saturday afternoon was devoted to the discussion of Dr. Koch's theory, advanced at the British Congress on Tuberculosis last year, that bovine tuberculosis is not transmissible to man. A number of delegates spoke on both sides of the question, and finally Dr. Koch, amid great excitement, rose to reply, and in a speech lasting over an hour and a quarter maintained all that he had said in London. Such an opinion is entitled to the deepest respect, but probably, in the present stage of knowledge, the advice of Dr. Hillier should be followed. He maintained that the question was still *sub judice*, and the world could not do wrong in taking the precaution to boil its milk.

It is regrettable that the part played by trained nurses and skilled nursing in the prevention of tuberculosis does not seem to have been touched upon. Much preventive work is entrusted to nurses.

In addition to taking part in the debates, the members of the Conference also visited the consumption sanatorium at Belzig, in the Mark of Brandenburg, and the Beelitz Sanatorium, recently described in this journal.

On Saturday evening the delegates attended a reception given at the Palace by the Empress in their honour.

#### AN APPEAL FOR ST. GEORGE'S.

Mr. Timothy Holmes, F.R.C.S., Treasurer of St. George's Hospital, presided recently at a large meeting, composed mainly of men who had obtained their education at the hospital, with the object of obtaining increased support from the public. The meeting passed a resolution pledging itself to further the interests of the hospital. The statement made by Sir Isambard Owen (Dean of the Medical School) that an erroneous impression was abroad that the funds of the hospital were applied for the benefit of the school, whereas they had always been absolutely distinct, and the medical school from its foundation a self-supporting institution, should certainly stimulate public support. All medical schools should be in a position to make a similar statement.

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