

The Tuberculosis Conference.

The fifth International Conference on Tuberculosis, convened by the International Central Bureau for the Prevention of Consumption, was held at the Hague last week. Great Britain had eight delegates, the National Association of England being represented by Dr. C. Theodore Williams and Dr. Nathan Raw. In all one hundred and fifteen delegates, representing sixteen countries, were present.

The subjects discussed included "Channels of Infection," "The Specific Treatment of Tuberculosis," "Notification," "Tuberculosis in the Army," "Tuberculosis and Prostitution," "Tuberculosis in Prisons," "The Cost of Sanatoria," and "Tuberculosis in Childhood."

At the first Session M. Bourgeois, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, was appointed President-General of the Anti-Tuberculosis Association in succession to the late Dr. Bronardel, to whose work it is due that the campaign against tuberculosis has developed into an international movement.

The question of compulsory notification has been referred to a committee, as, while most desirable, there are practical difficulties to be overcome before this principle can be put into practice. Dr. Raw advocated voluntary notification.

In connection with the organisation of popular sanatoria, several speakers advocated cheapness. Dr. Theodore Williams and Dr. Puetter, of Berlin, considered their establishment on cheap lines impossible, on account of the heavy building expenses. Dr. Schmid, of Berne, pointed out that the approximate cost of Swiss sanatoria was 5,000 francs per bed, the cost in Norway being much the same; while in other countries it often rose to 22,000 francs. Dr. Klebs thought even 5,000 francs too much. Dr. Philip, of Edinburgh, advocated the establishment of closer relations between sanatoria and dispensaries, and Dr. Flick, of Philadelphia, urged the increase of dispensaries as a powerful means of collaboration between medical men and the public in the war against tuberculosis.

In connection with the subject of tuberculosis in the Army Dr. Fisher, of Berlin, urgently demanded the removal of all men suffering from tuberculosis from service.

Professor Calmette, of France, dealing with the subject of channels of infection, expressed the belief, held also by Professor Behring, that infection is carried by the circulation from the intestines, and later becomes localised in the lungs and other parts of the body. He believes direct infection of the lungs by inhalation to be absolutely impossible. Other experts considered infection to be possible by both methods.

Professor Schossmann, of Dusseldorf, supported Dr. Calmette's views. He further asserted that at least 45 per cent. of all children of five years of age are tuberculous, although the disease may remain latent through life. In support of the theory of the spread of the disease through the intestines he drew attention to the fact that poorly nourished children are more tuberculous than those who are better fed.

Reminiscences of a Children's Ward.

The following episodes happened some years ago, but they are so fresh as a pleasant memory of a happy time that it seems but yesterday. Most nurses have the care of children sooner or later, and what nurse has not been amused by their originality and pretty ways? The darlings!

(1) Willie was only five years old when he was brought to the Children's Ward, and there I found him with large reflective eyes fixed on space.

"And so your name is Willie? And how is it, sonny, that you have such a big head?" The big head leant on one side as he said, shyly, "Cause God gived it me" (then hurriedly, as an afterthought); "I axed Him for a little 'un, but he said (this with a wave of his hand aside), No; no, you must have that one; I have no little 'un's left."

(2) Willie No. 2 came in yelling loudly, "I want to go 'ome," and I am sorry to say for the next six weeks it was his greeting morning, night, and always. As by this time Willie was sufficiently improved, I thought it quite time that his request should receive some consideration. Accordingly, the doctor arranged that he should be sent home for a time, at any rate, but when the mother came to fetch him, Willie looked dismayed, and the last we heard of him was his pitiful cry, "I want to stop."

There must be many jaded fathers and depressed mothers, indifferent and careless parents too, else why are there so many little victims in our hospital wards?

(3) Baby John got hold of a bottle and sucked its contents, vitriol. The pathetic little mite, his pupils dilated with pain, would moan, "Wantadink."

(4) And then there was the dark-eyed boy with hip-disease, who endured the pain of being "dressed" with hardly a murmur, and never forgot to say, "Thank you, Sister," at the end. Such suffering is dreadful even to behold, and it must be a little saint who can say gently, "Thank you," after it.

(5) Dicky was a stirring child with Empyema, so the precaution of strapping his dressing securely down, had always to be taken. But silently his little fingers would go to work boring their way in, and it required constant watching to prevent his meddling with the dressing.

One morning I discovered that the tube had disappeared. He looked roguishly at me and said, "I tooket it out." However I was

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