

Nursing Echoes.



The Pan-Anglican Congress long prepared for and looked forward to by members of the Anglican Communion in all parts of the world is now actually in session, beginning with a wonderful service in Westminster Abbey on Monday last. More than 80,000 Congress tickets have been issued, so that even the Abbey could only hold a small proportion of those anxious to obtain admission. Nurses have special reason for rejoicing that amongst the numerous meetings which have been arranged there is to be one specially their own, at the Church House on the afternoon of Tuesday, June 23rd, at 2.30. The body of the large hall will be reserved entirely free for nurses, and we have no doubt they will respond to the opportunity thus afforded them. The chair will be taken by the Right Reverend Bishop Montgomery, and the speakers will be the Right Rev. Dr. MacVickar, Bishop of Rhode Island, Dr. A. Hume Griffith from Turkish Arabia, and Mrs. Douglas Hooper, L.R.C.P., from Jilore, East Africa.

The new Workmen's Compensation Act, which comes into force on July 1st, is of interest to nurses, and it yet remains to be proved in how great a degree they may be affected by it. An important point as to the relation, under the Act, between nurses and Guardians, and, jointly with them, the assurance company with whom the Board have insured their officials, was raised at a recent meeting of the St. George's (Hanover Square) Board of Guardians. It arose out of a report presented at a previous meeting in which it was stated that a specialist had been consulted, and reported that a workhouse nurse had in the course of her duty "accidentally" vaccinated herself on the left cheek from a baby's arm. The medical man consulted said that in his opinion a marked scar would result on the left cheek.

As a result of the accident the assurance company was approached by the Guardians, and had replied that they were of the opinion that the nurse was not entitled to recover from the Guardians under the Workmen's Compensation Act, but, while they could not agree to accept responsibility under the Act on behalf of the Guardians, they would

be disposed to make an *ex gratia* payment to the nurse equivalent to half her wages for two months, at the same time repaying the Guardians four guineas, being the sum paid to the specialist. The Board determined to accept the offer of the company, but to do so "without prejudice to any rights which the Guardians or their successors in office may have under the Act."

It will thus be seen that the definition of the compensation to be claimed under the Act is by no means easy. In view of the fact that the House of Lords some two years ago supported the decision of a County Court Judge in awarding compensation for death from infectious disease, it is conceivable that the Act may be held to include liability on this count. In this case, in institutions where the workers are subjected to infection, the insurance companies will no doubt protect themselves by requiring that all reasonable care is taken as to disinfection. The use of a disinfectant is not sufficient, but a nurse, for instance, engaged in nursing a case of enteric fever, should be able to prove that the disinfectant she habitually used was of a definite strength, which can be done by proving that the disinfectant used is one which will pass the Rideal-Walker method of test. Many public authorities in tender forms for disinfectants now insert a clause providing that the Rideal-Walker co-efficient must be stated with each sample.

At a recent meeting in Manchester of the Local Association connected with the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, the subject of pensions for nurses was discussed, when the Chairman (Councillor West, of Newton Heath) said that the proposal made in London that the maximum should be £10 per year was altogether inadequate. In the discussion the opinion seemed to be fairly general that there was little hope of anything satisfactory being accomplished unless they could secure the help of some influential person to lead them as Lord Roberts had led the movement to support the Crimean veterans. The growing tendency of nurses frequently to remove from one district to another made it extremely difficult for the various associations to arrange pensions for their own nurses. In the end a resolution was passed asking the Council of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute in London to draw up a definite scheme for providing pensions on a higher scale than that previously named.

The diphtheria pavilion at the Lincoln Isolation Hospital was entirely destroyed by fire

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)