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Editorial.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

The value of International Congresses needs no demonstration; it is well recognised, and from many points of view is undoubted.

Such congresses stimulate definite research and concentration of thought in those who are selected to write and present papers; they afford opportunities for discussion between those interested in, and working at, the same problems in different countries, and, through the amount of expert information given, draw attention to the importance of the subject under consideration. The International Congress of Tuberculosis to be held in Washington, U. S. A., from September 21st, to October 12th, promises to be both comprehensive in its scope, and of far reaching importance. It is quite impossible to give a list of all the papers to be read in the seven sections, with their distinguished writers, who will deal with the subject from every conceivable point of view. The Sections are as follows:—(1) Pathology and Bacteriology. (2) Clinical Study and Therapy of Tuberculosis—Sanatoria, Hospitals and Dispensaries. (3) Surgery and Orthopædics. (4) Tuberculosis in Children—Etiology, Prevention and Treatment. (5) Hygienic, Social and Industrial and Economic Aspects of Tuberculosis. (6) State and Municipal Control of Tuberculosis. (7) Tuberculosis in Animals and its Relation to Man.

The Congress is of special interest to nurses, because the value and importance of their work in connection with tuberculosis has been recognised by the promoters, and they are accorded a place of their own in the programme in Section 5. Thursday, October 1st, has been devoted to the

“Nurses’ Meeting,” and no less than twenty two papers, which promise to be of extreme interest, are to be presented by nurses.

Other papers of special interest to the nursing profession are those on “Open-air Schools” by Mrs. Anna Garlin Spencer; “Training for Professional Nursing in Institutions for the care of Tuberculosis patients” by Dr. Charles J. Hatfield; papers on “Overwork and Nervous Strain” by Dr. George Dock, Miss Jane Addams and Dr. Alice Hamilton; and “The Social Significance and Educational Value of the Nurse in Tuberculosis Work” by Miss Lilian D. Wald.

The Seventh Session in Section 5 also promises to be of great interest. It is concerned with the “Promotion of Immunity,” and includes the development of the conception of physical well-being; measures for increasing resistance to disease, such as parks and playgrounds, outdoor sports, physical education, raising the standard of living in respect to housing, diet, and cleanliness; individual immunity and social conditions favourable to general immunity.

We have, however, only touched the fringe of this stupendous Congress. To get a faint idea of its scope and of the influence it is likely to bring to bear upon the problems connected with tuberculosis, it is necessary to study the programme. A number of prizes of 1,000 dollars each, as well as gold and silver medals, diplomas and certificates, will be awarded.

To those who are privileged to take part in the Congress, and to share the social life which is so pleasant and important a feature of these gatherings, the occasion is one not likely to be forgotten, for it promises to be one of the most memorable Congresses which has ever taken place.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)