

occasion this same under-lying truth was plainly pointed out. This being the inevitable end of all thorough-going researches into the cause of tuberculosis it was inevitable that many radical views should appear in the different papers. One speaker, for instance, boldly declared that speculation in land must cease before housing conditions could be improved and fresh air secured for the inhabitants of cities. Dr. Woods Hutchinson did not hesitate to declare that an insufficient wage was the cause of poverty, and Mr. Marsh came out flat and said the people of this country would have to decide between the constitution of the United States and the human constitution. Equally radical views were held by different nurses who read papers. Mrs. Isabel Hampton Robb, in a very interesting paper, discussed the responsibility of women for the prevention of tuberculosis. She traced their share in this responsibility to faulty practical training and education, denounced the unfitness of the average woman for house-keeping and home-making, and advocated the abolition of the individual kitchen and the institution of house-keeping centres where one model kitchen should not only provide the food for a group of families, but should also serve as a teaching ground for the young in scientific household economy. It was also interesting to hear that little by little the superficial popular belief in the supreme efficacy of teaching tuberculosis patients the principles of sanitation was discarded. One speaker declared "We cannot depend on the teaching of hygiene alone," and a frank recognition of the uselessness of giving instruction to patients who, by reason of being on or below the poverty line, are unable to carry them out, was the message strongly given by the Baltimore Visiting Nurses' Association. The papers read by Miss La Motte and Miss Lent on this theme made a great impression by reason of their fearless statement of facts as they found them.

There was immense interest among the nurses themselves. Over eighty came from distant points, and there were social gatherings with much exchange of views at the Washington Visiting Nurses' Association, the Garfield Hospital, and the Johns Hopkins. It was a great disappointment to us that Mlle. Chaptal was unable to come. Dr. Rist, of Paris, looked in at us for a moment.

There were some admirable exhibits, some good ones being made by Visiting Nurse Associations. I am proud of my native State (Pennsylvania) in its organisation for tuberculosis (though it has an evil reputation for labour conditions). The State Health Department there has opened tuberculosis dispensaries in every one of the counties of the State, 67 in all, and nurses are to be attached to all of them. Already about half of them are provided with nurses. This is the most complete organisation that any State in the Union has to show. The best organisation of a nursing staff under city government is that of New York (municipal conditions again the worst possible), and many excellent, aggressive, and effective voluntary associations were represented.

It is considered that the medical sessions were,

on the whole, the most brilliant ever held. I am sorry to say that the housekeeping of the Congress was not what it should have been. My heart sank when I saw the unfinished building, with mud entrances, and heard the pounding of stone masons. Inside were raw, unfinished walls, muslin partitions, and it was almost impossible to hear. However, I will not pursue this painful subject. Our meeting was an unqualified success.

The next International Tuberculosis Congress will be held in Rome in 1911. All the delegates who have just met in Washington agree that increased interest and stimulated effort are the most valuable products of the meeting.

*Charities* says that the resolutions which were adopted by the Congress outline a more comprehensive programme than has hitherto been agreed upon by so important a body. It was resolved:

1. That the attention of state and central governments be called to the importance of proper laws for the obligatory notification, by medical attendants, to the proper health authorities, of all cases of tuberculosis coming to their notice, and for the registration of such cases, in order to enable the health authorities to put in operation adequate measures for the prevention of the disease;

2. That the utmost efforts should be continued in the struggle against tuberculosis to prevent the conveyance from man to man of tuberculous infection as the most important source of the disease;

3. That preventive measures be continued against bovine tuberculosis and that the possibility of the propagation of this to man be recognised;

4. That we urge upon the public and upon all governments (a) the establishment of hospitals for the treatment of advanced cases of tuberculosis, (b) the establishment of sanatoria for curable cases of tuberculosis, (c) the establishment of dispensaries, day camps, and night camps for ambulant cases of tuberculosis which cannot enter hospitals or sanatoria;

5. That this congress endorses such well-considered legislation for the regulation of factories and workshops, the abolition of premature and injurious labour of women and children, and the securing of sanitary dwellings, as will increase the resisting power of the community to tuberculosis and other disease;

6. That this congress endorses and recommends the establishment of playgrounds as an important means of preventing tuberculosis through their influence upon health and resistance to disease;

7. That instruction in personal and school hygiene should be given in all schools for the professional training of teachers;

8. That whenever possible such instruction in elementary hygiene should be entrusted to properly qualified medical instructors;

9. That colleges and universities should be urged to establish courses in hygiene and sanitation, and also to include these subjects among their entrance requirements, in order to stimulate useful elementary instruction in the lower schools.

L. L. D.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)