

bed of a patient in the last stage of the disease, exposed to the spray flying from his mouth as he coughs. We find seamstresses in the advanced stage, striving to work as long as their strength will allow them, stifling back their cough with the hand with which they work.

The average negro shuts himself in closed rooms, without a particle of ventilation, veritable incubators for the tuberculosis germ, and it is in rooms such as these that we find much of our laundry work being done.

The Italians, coming from a warm climate, also house themselves closely in cold weather, and it is then that most of the housework is being carried on. During the summer many of the factories and mills from which they get their work are closed, or the work grows very slack, and we find whole families going out into the country to pick berries and vegetables. But in the fall and winter every Italian home is a busy one, and in almost every house you will find piles of unfinished garments.

If one of our well dressed men, priding himself upon having his clothes made by one of the best tailors in town, would follow one of his suits in the making, he might be more than surprised. He would find that it was cut and fitted in the swell appointed shop that he was familiar with, but when it reaches a certain stage it goes down into the Italian or Jewish quarter to very likely a small, dirty home, where the finishings are done and the button-holes made. In this very home there is perhaps a consumptive, who more than likely is doing some form of the work, for whole families often turn in to help in the finishing.

Going through the Italian quarter not many weeks ago, I noticed a girl sitting beside a window sewing. Knowing the family, I stopped to inquire how they were, and noticed while talking to her a persistent cough, though she hardly raised her eyes from the button-holes that she was making. She shrugged her shoulders when I spoke to her about it, apparently indifferent to the spray from her mouth, which flew over her work. Her only answer was that it would all go away in the spring, when they went to the country to pick berries. She had no idea of the thousands who would be endangered from the contaminated berries.

Again and again, I have found macaroni, ice-cream, and candy making being carried on in the home of the consumptive, and sometimes by the patient himself, while he explained to me that the work was easy. The ice-cream that our schoolchildren daily buy from the Hokey-Pokey man is very apt to be made by a patient suffering from tuberculosis.

(To be concluded.)

International Congress News.

It is with great pleasure we announce that the Lord and Lady Mayoress will extend the hospitality of the Mansion House to the delegates and members of the International Congress of Nurses at a Reception on the afternoon of the opening day, July 20th.

Both in Berlin and Paris, trained nurses have enjoyed the most charming municipal hospitality, but we feel sure that the honourable recognition of their profession by the splendid old City of London will occasion the deepest gratification to nurses from all parts of the world.

The arrangements are shaping themselves very satisfactorily for the International Council Meeting and Congress in July, although, sad to say, some of our old friends will not be with us. Owing to the ill-health of her husband, who is leaving Holland to live in Switzerland, Mrs. Aletrino von Stockum, President of the Dutch Nurses' Association, who has done so much to organise "Nosokomos" and thus helped enormously to benefit Dutch nurses, will be unable to take part in the Congress; her successor, Miss Cateau J. Tilanus, will be invited to take her place.

From Finland comes a characteristic letter from Baroness Mannerheim. She will be present and take part in the Congress, anxious always to learn; she considers the gathering is calculated to be of great use to Finnish nurses and nursing.

Mrs. Henny Tscherning, President of the Danish Council of Nurses, will for a first time take a personal part in the International Council's proceedings, and we hear many Danish nurses are making arrangements to attend, every one will receive a very hearty welcome.

The Irish Nurses' Association will consider at their next meeting what part they can take to help to make the Congress a success. In the social functions especially we shall need their support; we must have their wit to add to the gaiety of nations.

A suggestion that there should be lady stewards to help with the organisation of the Congress Sessions, in the Exhibition Hall, and as social hostesses, will find favour, we know, with many members who possess business and social talents, and who can "speak with tongues." Half the pleasure of such a Congress is missed by foreigners if there is no one to show them around; upon this important occasion no one must be at a loose end, and feel out of it. London has got to show how proud she is to welcome the nurses of all nations, what a motherly interest she takes in them all, and how determined she is they shall all feel at home.

previous page

next page