

anti-toxins introduced from without? And none have demonstrated this fact more satisfactorily than the physicians of Belfast in your terrible epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis. Again, the fact, established by numerous observers now, that this same disease in its severe forms may be recovered from under simple repeated tapplings of the spinal canal through the lumbar sac without any injection at all, suggests strongly that these serous coverings, too, must possess defensive works of the highest order, only requiring slight assistance in the removal of an overplus of poison to effect a complete recovery in many cases.

#### THE KNOWLEDGE OF MOTHERHOOD.

The address in Obstetrics was given by Sir John W. Byers, M.D., Professor of Midwifery and Diseases of Women at Queen's College, Belfast.

Sir John Byers, emphasised the fact that the ideal to be aimed at in obstetric practice is not merely a living mother and a living child, but that both should be healthy. Immense progress had, he said, been made in obstetrics in the last quarter of a century. The lines of advance along which we may hope for still further progress in the future are, in his opinion—(1) the more practical training of students and midwives, (2) the public health aspect of obstetrics, and (3) the more intimate association with the practical obstetrician, of the physiological chemist and of the clinical pathologist. In regard to the public health aspect, he said, if the ideal of a healthy mother and a healthy child are to be accomplished, it is essential, above and beyond the expert aid and advice afforded by the skilled obstetrician, that there should be spread more and more amongst the people the knowledge of motherhood. Children in the public schools must be trained as to what is essential for the proper understanding of life, so that they may realise how often Browning's line is true. "Ignorance is not innocence, but sin." If we are to succeed in making a healthy nation, if we are to get rid of the physical degeneration which is so prevalent, and if we are to regain the ability and the energy which are so essential for any country in the present fierce struggle for existence, and much of which has been lost through crime, ignorance, and apathy, we must cease to neglect the mothers of the people. No method will ever give real physical betterment which does not exert a beneficial effect upon that sex which is admittedly the most important element in the development of the race.

These excellent and most practical addresses are widely read by the laity with very valuable results to the public health.

## International Congress of Nurses.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21st.

2 to 4 p.m.

#### THE RELATIONS OF NURSING AND MEDICINE.

Miss A. W. GOODRICH, R.N., President of the American Federation of Nurses, presided at this Session, and said that, after the beautiful and comprehensive address and papers which had been presented in the morning, little remained for her to say, but she would like to emphasise the fact that it did not matter whether they discussed the problems of those who ministered to the sick in hospitals or in tenement districts, they themselves held the key and the secret. Only those who loved the poor should try to help the poor. Wherever nursing problems were discussed one became more and more impressed with the fact of the need of women in the nursing profession who would consider these problems from the standpoint of the community at large as well as of their profession, and further, that unless nurses had a deep love of their profession, as well as high purpose they could not meet all the demands made upon them.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SESSION then called on Miss Mollett to present her paper.

#### THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE RELATIONS OF THE MEDICAL AND NURSING PROFESSIONS.

Miss Mollett said that no one doubted the existence of a medical profession. Well organised, well equipped, holding a distinct mandate from the public to act on its behalf in all matters connected with disease and health, it enjoyed in a really extraordinary manner the thoroughly well deserved confidence and trust of the public. And the position of the medical profession was based on a sound foundation. It was possible to be peaceful and indifferent enough to pass through life without troubling either a lawyer or a clergyman, but very, very few of us escaped the doctor. He ushered us into the world, he assisted us to leave it, and in the interval he vaccinated us, saw us through measles, scarlet fever, mumps, and the more alarming disorders of our later life. We looked to him to deliver us from the results of our follies and misfortunes. It was to him we turned for relief from pain, for help in the thousand ills that the flesh is heir to. No calling was more well established and justly popular with all classes. None more indispensable. What position, then, towards the great masters of the healing art did the nurse hold? What was nursing as a whole to medicine?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)