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EDITORIAL.

THE INTERNATIONAL EUGENICS CONGRESS.

There are no classes of the community to whom the question of eugenics is of greater interest than to trained nurses and midwives; for eugenics is the study of agencies under social control that may improve or impair the racial qualities of future generations, either physically or mentally; and nurses are only too well aware of the need for the improvement of the physical conditions of the race, with its predisposition in many instances to tuberculosis, to alcoholism, its heritage of syphilis with all its terrible and far reaching effects, and the influence of environment, as exemplified in the stunted stature and impaired constitutions of the slum dwellers. As to the need for improvement of mental conditions, they know that the questions of the feeble-minded, whose powers of fecundity are in excess of those of the normal individual, of epilepsy, and insanity form some of the most pressing problems with which this nation is confronted.

As a new social consciousness is awakened in nurses, they realize that a most important part of the service which they are called upon to render to the community is concerned with the prevention of disease as well as with the care of the sick, but, to render such service effectively, they need instruction and information.

The first International Eugenics Congress is to be held at the University of London from July 24th to 30th, and is an opportunity of which all who can should avail themselves. The main object of the Congress is to bring the whole subject of racial improvement before the general public, and, if possible, to induce it to take

into consideration the biological question of soundness of stock in all matters of social reform.

The Congress will be opened in the Great Hall of the University of London, Imperial Institute Road, South Kensington, by the President, Major Leonard Darwin, at 10 a.m. on the morning of Thursday, July 25th, and on the previous evening there will be an Inaugural Banquet at the Hotel Cecil, when speeches will be made by the President, the Lord Mayor of London, Mr. A. J. Balfour and others, followed by a Reception of Welcome to all members and associates of the Congress. The subjects discussed will be considered under the following sections: Biology and Eugenics, Practical Eugenics, Education and Eugenics, Sociology and Eugenics, Medicine and Eugenics, and a very full programme, embracing papers presented by Eugenists of many nationalities has been arranged. The Membership fee is £1, and Associate Membership fee 10s., application for which may be made to the Secretary, Eugenics Education Society, 6, York Buildings, Adelphi, W.C. Associates are entitled to all the privileges of members except that they have no vote, and will not receive the Report when published.

Tickets for the banquet can be obtained, price 7s. 6d., from Mrs. Alec Tweedie, Hon. Secretary, Entertainments Committee, 30, York Terrace, Harley Street, W. The hospitality arranged includes receptions by the Duchess of Marlborough, the Lord Mayor, the American Ambassador and Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, and the President and Mrs. Leonard Darwin.

In addition to the Congress there will be an Exhibition which the Committee hope to make as fully representative as possible of the past history and present state of the sciences of Heredity and Eugenics.

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