

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MEDICINE.

The great International Congress of Medicine with its 23 Sections, and 7,000 members representing 25 countries, has come and gone, leaving with us a vision of an even higher vocation than that of healing only. Patient investigation of disease and its causes has revealed the truth that many diseases by which mankind is ravaged are preventable, and the aspiration of the most progressive members of the medical profession to-day is to compass that prevention which is incomparably better than cure.

In no Session was this more apparent than in the conjoint Session of the Sections of Syphiligraphy and Forensic Medicine held in the Albert Hall on Saturday morning last, for the discussion of "Syphilis; its dangers to the Community and the Question of State Control," over which Sir Malcolm Morris presided.

Professor A. Blascheo of Berlin, who presented the first paper, strongly advocated the founding of a National Society for the Prevention of Venereal Diseases. Such a society existed in Germany, and had considerably influenced legislation. The regulation of prostitution had proved unsuccessful because it did not control the most dangerous individuals in regard to the spread of infection, *i.e.*, those not yet crippled by their disease. A system of sanitary control should be established which should apply equally to both sexes.

Major H. C. Trench, R.A.M.C., pointed out that the State control of disease was an absolutely different matter to the State regulation of vice. Owing to the Insurance Act, syphilis must in time become notifiable on financial grounds. He deplored the fact that an epidemic which is one of the most dreadful now existing amongst mankind and which communicates itself from the guilty to the innocent, should be suffered to rage unchecked, because the Legislature refuses to take official cognizance of its existence, or proper sanitary measures for its repression. The first essential was a system of confidential medical notification and the disposal of diseased persons in hospital in the early contagious stages.

Professor Gaucher and Dr. Gougerot of Paris, advocated the suppression of procuration and the White Slave Traffic; that the transmission of syphilis should be made a penal offence; that prostitution should be prevented by the establishment of paternity; and that the rights of a legitimate wife should be accorded to the victim of seduction.

Dr. Woods Hutchinson of New York, spoke of the value of salvarsan in treatment. No State regulation would make prostitutes safe, when, as was proved at Chicago, they received as many as thirty men a night.

He did not think the mental condition of these women received sufficient attention. Seventy-five per cent. of prostitutes were definitely feeble-

minded. Whatever became of the feeble-minded man the feeble-minded woman gravitated to prostitution, or became the mother of illegitimate children. Any measure for the control of the feeble-minded would cut off two-thirds of the supply of prostitutes. Thus prostitution was the exploitation of the deficient, who should be permanently taken care of. Its real source was not, as some believed, "physical necessity," but the greed of business men—substantial, respectable church-goers—who fostered it for purposes of gain. It was an abnormal process, not a necessary evil.

Sir Malcolm Morris briefly summed up, and the following Resolution was then carried:

RESOLUTION.

That, sensible of the ravages wrought by syphilis in the health of the community, and deploring the inadequacy of existing facilities for checking its dissemination, the International Medical Congress calls upon the Governments of all the countries here represented—

(1) To institute a system of confidential notification of the disease to a sanitary authority, wherever such notification does not already obtain.

(2) To make systematic provision for the diagnosis and treatment of all cases of syphilis not otherwise provided for.

THE MUSEUM.

At the Imperial College of Science and Technology a most interesting museum illustrative of some of the more important advances in medical science since the last Congress in 1904 had been arranged.

THE EXHIBITION.

The Imperial Institute was given over to the Exhibition organised by *The British and Colonial Druggist* on behalf of the Finance Committee of the Congress, which was most comprehensive. Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. secured the premier position at the four corners of the Central Entrance Hall, through which everyone had to pass, and, as always, their exhibit was beautifully arranged. Messrs. Allen & Hanburys, Ltd., showed a very complete collection of aseptic hospital furniture. The Medical Supply Association made a special exhibit of Macdonald's Improved Sterilisers for dressings; Messrs. Baillière, Tindall & Cox showed an excellent selection of medical books; the dainty little Jelloids of the Iron Jelloid Co. occupied a prominent position. Keen, Robinson & Co., Ltd., of "Patent" Barley fame, were well to the fore. Lemco and Oxo—the latter in various attractive varieties—were on view. Messrs. Newton Chambers were displaying the various preparations with which their germicide Izal is incorporated. Nestle's Milk Co. claimed attention for its many excellent brands. Messrs. Charles Zimmermann were displaying Lysol, an excellent deodorant and disinfectant. Bovril Ltd. was conspicuous for its well-known preparations. "Wincarnis," "The Standard Wine Tonic," was to the fore. Horlick's Malted Milk Co., needless to say,

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