

SAN FRANCISCO, 1915.

Miss Genevieve Cooke, President American Nurses' Association, writes from San Francisco, that a great hotel, "The Inside Inn," containing 1,800 rooms and equipped with every modern luxury and convenience, will be erected within the Exposition grounds.

The rates to be charged by this hotel will be from \$1 to \$3 per day. It will be built and managed by private parties as a concession, but the Exposition directors, by the terms of the concession, will have a voice in the fixing of the rates to be charged.

This hotel is San Francisco's guarantee—and the guarantee of the Panama-Pacific directors—that the thousands of guests who will crowd into the city's Exposition will be accorded fair treatment in the matter of hotel accommodation and rates.

Already 186 conventions are booked to meet in San Francisco during the year 1915, and the officials having these conventions in charge are seeking reservations and demanding to know in advance the rates to be charged. The Exposition directors, after three months of negotiations with the hotel managers of San Francisco, have been unable to come to any agreement as to reservations and the rates to be charged by the hotels in the city.

Failing in their efforts to reach an agreement by which they could guarantee reasonable rates to visitors, the Exposition directors decided to take the drastic step already outlined by providing for the erection of a magnificent hotel, which will at least provide accommodation for the delegates to the 186 conventions already booked for the city during the Exposition year.

Miss Cooke would like to know whether those members of the National Council of Nurses intending to attend the International Nursing Congress would wish to secure rooms in "The Inside Inn." Personally, we should think the arrangement that "The Inside Inn" should be Headquarters for the meeting of the International Meeting would be ideal—especially as we hope to hold the meetings within the Exposition grounds, where there are to be spacious halls for the purpose. The American Committee hope to settle up details at their meeting in New York next month, and in the meanwhile we have notified Miss Cooke that we warmly approve the plan of making Headquarters at "The Inside Inn," and shall be pleased to forward to her the names of those who would like rooms reserved for them there at 1 dollar per night if possible.

THE ASSOCIATION OF APPROVED SOCIETIES.

SPECIAL INQUIRY INTO MEDICAL BENEFIT.

In view of complaints as to the provision of adequate medical attendance and treatment for insured persons, the Association of Approved Societies, which has a membership of over four millions, has appointed a special committee of inquiry into medical benefit, under the chairmanship of the Earl of Lytton.

It is understood that early next session the Government intend to introduce an Insurance Act Amendment Bill dealing with the position of the deposit contributors, whose case, under the provisions of the Act, must be dealt with before December 1914. If the inquiry bears out the complaints which have been made in regard to the administration of medical benefit, the association will press for the inclusion in the Amending Bill of provisions designed to restore to insured persons the right to adequate medical attendance and treatment which the Act originally promised, but which, it is alleged, has since been curtailed by the regulations made by the Insurance Commissioners.

The committee of inquiry, which hopes to present a précis of evidence in March, is composed of:—

- Mr. J. Baker, Steel Smelters' Union.
- Mr. H. C. Barker, London Hospital.
- Sir Hugh Bell.
- Dr. A. Cox, British Medical Association.
- Mr. H. H. Elvin, National Union of Clerks.
- Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, National Council of Trained Nurses.
- Mr. J. C. Fox, Bristol and West of England Operatives' Society.
- Mr. F. A. Goodwin, St. James-the-Less Friendly Society.
- Dr. R. A. Lyster, M.O.H., Hampshire.
- Dr. Nicholson, Poor Law Medical Officer, Bethnal Green.
- Dr. A. Salter, London Panel.
- Mr. L. van Raalte, National Union of Vehicle Workers
- Mrs. Sidney Webb, National Committee for the Prevention of Destitution.
- Mr. J. W. Willis-Bund, Chairman Worcester Insurance Committee.

Mr. Alban Gordon, of the Association of Approved Societies, will act as hon. secretary.

A letter is being sent to panel doctors, medical officers of health, insurance committees, approved societies, hospitals, charitable institutions and other quarters interested, accompanied by a printed list of over 100 questions divided into six distinct groups.

The inquiry is divided into the four main headings of machinery, adequacy of treatment, drugs and appliances, and tuberculosis.

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