

## SAN FRANCISCO, 1915.

## PRACTICAL POINTS.

We regret that we must defer till next week the publication of the details of the proposed trip to and from San Francisco in the Nurses' International Train, together with the Program of the International Nursing Congress.

It is reported from San Francisco that already it is surmised that some 6,000 nurses are contemplating attending the International Nursing Conferences to be held there in the first week of June, 1915. Not only will the meetings of the International Council attract them, but it is arranged that the American Nurses' Association, the National League of Nursing Education (the Superintendents' Society), the Organization of Public Health Nurses, and the California State Nurses' Association will all foregather on May 31st and hold their business meetings in San Francisco. Dr. Helen Parker Criswell, on her return from a four months' tour in Europe in the interests of the International gathering, reports: "Everywhere in London, Paris, Brussels, Berlin, Rome, and in the provinces, I found the nurses and the officials of the foreign training schools and organizations full of enthusiasm for the meeting at the Exposition. The attendance from European countries will be enormous, and in addition to the Congresses, these organizations are united in the preparation of a comprehensive exhibit of all modern nursing methods, and a feature will be made of the historic exhibit. These exhibits, with a demonstration hospital, will be maintained during the ten months of the Exposition. We expect that at least fifteen countries will be represented with over 6,000 delegates. The American branch, of which Miss Geneviève Cooke is President, will take a prominent part, as will the two closely allied national nurses' associations. These are distinct from the Red Cross, which will hold a Congress at about the same time."

The Committee of Arrangements at San Francisco, of which Mrs. Helen Parker Criswell is Chairman, is also well ahead with details of organization. It is proposed to entertain the official delegates after the first week of the Congress, and several ladies have sub-committees in hand.

Our readers will see how important it is that they should plan early for this great event, and notify our National Council Hon. Secretary if they wish rooms retained for them at the Inside Inn, which will be the headquarters of the International Council of Nurses.

**Sterilization of Scalpels.**

"Whilst it is generally recognized," says the *Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette*, "that the sterilization of metal instruments can be more reliably effected by boiling them than by the use of antiseptics, and accordingly most instruments are submitted to this process, a notable exception is made of cutting instruments such as scalpels, which of all instruments ought to be perfectly sterile. The objection to boiling these arises from the fear of impairing the keenness of the blades, and consequently many surgeons content themselves with the method of sterilization by antiseptics. It is quite true that knives can be damaged in the course of boiling, both mechanically and through the softening of the steel, but it does not necessarily follow that they need be, if proper precautions be taken. Mechanical damage resulting from the contact of the knives with each other in the course of boiling can easily be avoided by placing them in a special rack in the sterilizer. The more serious impairment of softening, caused by the subjection of the knives to the temperature of boiling water for prolonged periods, can be prevented by chilling them immediately upon their removal from the sterilizer, by plunging them into cold alcohol, for it is the gradual cooling which destroys the temper of the steel."

**The Jigger Flea.**

Writing in the *Nursing Journal of India*, "M. C. Byrne," says:—"The Flea invariably chooses the extremities to enter. The first intimation one has is a persistent throbbing and itching, if no attention is paid, time is given for it to lay its bag of eggs. Then the part is very painful and in looking you find a white patch with a tiny black speck in the centre. The next thing is to get a *clean* needle, some lint or soft muslin and powdered quinine and to set about to *carefully dig all round the white patch* so as not to break the bag; then to squeeze the lot out on to the lint and when certain every particle is out to *rub the quinine well in* and tie up the part for a day or so; *renewing the quinine treatment every day*. Some people use paraffin if quinine is not at hand.

"In British East Africa itself I have seen a case of neglected Jigger; it had eaten upwards into the ball of the foot and was the size of a big glass marble—it naturally needed the doctor's knife and not a needle to extract it.

"After coming to India I saw several cases of very bad feet amongst coolies returning from British East Africa, just caused by sheer neglect.

"There is no reason to be afraid of the Jigger if taken in time. I myself have picked one out of the sole of my foot when dressing for a dance, and another time I had to remove one from my baby's buttocks, but in neither case was there any further trouble."

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