

pursued vigorously and continuously. Unfortunately in the present state of our knowledge a diagnosis is as a rule made only when the disease is in a stage so advanced as to make the results of treatment uncertain, even though very large doses of antitoxin are used. These large doses are costly, and place the serum treatment of tetanus practically out of the reach of those with shallow purses—unless, of course, the serum be provided by the State. But in the prophylactic use of serum there is within the reach of every one a means of checking the disease. It has been proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that, wherever the prophylactic use of antitoxin has been carried out systematically, tetanus may be said to have disappeared. Tetanus should therefore be looked upon as a preventable disease, and, when one realizes this, there flashes across the mind the memorable question, 'If preventable, why not prevented?'

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS.

Mrs. Helen P. Criswell, the Chairman of the Arrangements Committee for the International Council of Nurses Congress at San Francisco, June, 1915, writes:—"The International Council of Nurses have decided, owing to the great demands on nurses on account of the War, it is best to discontinue all plans for the Nurses' Exhibit in the Palace of Education at the Panama Pacific International Exposition.

"This will in no way interfere with the Congress to be held in San Francisco from May 31st to June 6th, 1915."

All arrangements are so far going forward for the International train, as the American Nurses' Association will hold its Annual Meeting at San Francisco. At an additional cost of £5 a ticket may be had in a standard Pullman sleeping car, but as the tourist cars are equally comfortable (being fitted with leather instead of plush), there appears no need to incur this expense. One nurse who wished to take her husband along, has been told this cannot be allowed, owing to the need of keeping all dressing-rooms on the train for members. But if 25 trained nurses want to take their husbands, Mr. Frank will make them up a car of their own on another train!

This sounds cold comfort.

This War, so ruthless and brutal, will we fear cause so much grief and misery throughout the world, that there is but faint hope of a happy gathering of nurses from Europe in six months' time. There are few homes in this country where sorrow will not set its seal.

### THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.



The Quarterly Meeting of the Matrons' Council was held on Friday, 9th inst., at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., Mrs. Bedford Fenwick in the Chair.

A letter was read from the President, Miss M. Heather-Bigg, deeply regretting her inability to attend owing to press of work in connection with the opening of the new wards and other engagements at Charing Cross Hospital.

There were twenty-two members present, and after the Minutes had been read and confirmed and the business arising out of them considered, the following Matrons were elected members of the Council:—

#### NEW MEMBERS.

Miss Agnes Elsie Hogg, Matron, Scuola Convitto Regina Elena, Florence, Italy.

Miss Jeannette Ferrier, Matron, Darent Industrial Colony, Kent, M.A.B.

Miss S. M. Masters, Superintendent, Q.V.J.I., Paddington and Marylebone District Nursing Association, London.

Miss Alice S. G. Bryson, Matron, Southern Hospital, Dartford, Kent, M.A.B.

Miss Ruth des Forges, Matron, Nelson Hospital, Merton, S.W.

Miss Lilian Reed, Matron, Eston Hospital, Yorks.

Miss Georgina Lord, Matron, Blencathra Sanatorium, Cumberland.

Miss Alice Stevens, Matron, Isolation Hospital, Hendon, and First Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge.

#### THE SUICIDE OF MISS CHARLOTTE PHIPPS.

The Chairman said that those present had no doubt been deeply shocked, as she had been, by the tragic death of the late Miss Charlotte Phipps, Superintendent Nurse at Barnet Workhouse, and with the permission of the meeting she desired to propose a resolution relating to it. Mrs. Fenwick then moved from the Chair the following motion:—

"That the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland learned with deep sorrow of the suicide of Miss Charlotte Phipps, Superintendent Nurse at the Barnet Workhouse, and are convinced that the anomalous position of a Superin-

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