

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,578.

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1918.

Vol. LX

EDITORIAL.

THE AFTER CARE OF DISABLED MEN.

Nothing can exceed the importance and interest of the Inter-Allied Conference and Exhibition in connection with the After Care of disabled fighting men opened by the Duke of Connaught on Monday last, at the Central Hall, Westminster, and, on the same day, honoured by a visit from the King and Queen, accompanied by Princess Mary. In former wars, when peace has been restored, too little has often been heard of the men who have paid the price of victory, and maimed, and often in poverty, have lived out the remainder of their shattered lives. Such a reproach to those whose safety and physical soundness has been purchased by the splendid valour of men, who are physically, and sometimes mentally, wrecked in consequence, cannot be permitted in connection with the present war. We have been brought into such close touch with the work of the sailors and soldiers of the Allies, that we realize as never before what they have endured, and the price they have paid; and their comfort and well being, and their equipment and training when possible, to earn their living in new ways, must be the first charge upon the nations.

The Duke of Connaught, in opening the Exhibition and Conference, and speaking in French, welcomed those present on behalf of the King, and the Government of this country. In addition to the representatives of the United Kingdom, delegates were present from the United States of America, France, Italy, Belgium, Portugal, Serbia and Siam. The Overseas Dominions were represented by delegates from India, Canada, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. The Duke reminded his audience that just a year ago the first Allied Conference, called

by the French and Belgian Governments met in Paris, and, as a result, a Permanent Committee, with a research bureau, and museum had been opened there. In welcoming the delegates His Royal Highness made special mention of Dr. Bourrillon, President of that committee, and thanked one and all for the honour they had done us in journeying to London, in spite of all the rigours, discomforts, and dangers of war-time travelling, and presenting such valuable reports for discussion.

Dr. Bourrillon in reply said that the Allied Nations had recognized the need of collaboration in sick research, and in the best methods of giving a chance to our invalids of enjoying the honourable existence they had earned by their courage and misfortune.

The Exhibition, which is worthy of a much more detailed description than our limited space permits, is an object-lesson in resolution and courage. The men who fought so gallantly against the Huns are now bringing the spirit which inspired them to bear upon their own disabilities. Under instruction they are becoming adepts in many branches of work, including arts and crafts, and many hitherto unsuspected talents are being revealed and developed. The orthopædic treatment of wounded soldiers, and their employment in fashioning the implements for their own cure, is illustrated on an international basis.

The restoration to normal appearance of a mutilated face is wonderfully illustrated in the Canadian Section. Instances might be multiplied, but we hope enough has been said to make our readers determine to visit the Central Hall, Westminster, and see for themselves the work of our wounded men, and to attend the Conference convened under the chairmanship of the Right Hon. John Hodge, M.P., Minister of Pensions, which continues up to May 25th, inclusive.

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