

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

No. 1,735.

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1921.

Vol. LXVII

EDITORIAL.

ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE CONGRESS.

One of the most important Congresses held during the year in the United Kingdom, from whatever view-point it may be regarded, is that convened by the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., and held this year at Folkestone from June 20th to the 25th, the Presidential Address at the inaugural meeting being given by the Earl of Radnor.

The trite saying, "the Nation's Health is the Nation's Wealth," embodies a profound truth, and it is to sanitary science that we must look to lay the foundations of that health, for none know better than trained nurses how often the illnesses they are called upon to care for in hospitals and infirmaries, and in the homes of the poor, amongst school children and young infants, are due, directly or indirectly, to bad sanitary surroundings, so that a passionate desire is aroused in many nurses to help to secure proper sanitary conditions, because they know full well that nothing affects the physical and moral health of the people so adversely as bad sanitation, inadequate housing and overcrowding; nothing is a greater preventive of zymotic and other diseases, or tends to develop self-respect and the rearing of a strong race, more than proper and sanitary conditions of living.

It was fitting, therefore, that the Congress should be received with all honour by the Mayor of Folkestone, who also presided at a public luncheon on the opening day, and subsequently opened the Health Exhibition; and not only by the Mayor of Folkestone, for, on the last day, many of the Congress members crossed to Boulogne, where there was a Reception by the Mayor of Boulogne, who entertained them to tea, and where they had the advantage and pleasure of visiting the Bureau d'Hygiene, the Hospital of St. Louis, the Waterworks, the

Ceuvre de la Gout de Lait, besides the interesting Hotel-de-Ville, and other places.

The Delegates officially appointed to represent Government Departments, the Dominions, foreign countries, &c., numbered some 200, besides about 300 Health Authorities throughout the United Kingdom. Many of the 5,000 members of the Institute also attended.

The Congress dealt with a large variety of subjects, those most interesting to trained nurses being the Section on "Health Visitors" on the afternoon of Tuesday, June 21st, presided over by Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, J.P., President of the Women Sanitary Inspectors' and Health Visitors' Association, and the Section on "Hygiene of Maternity and Child Welfare" (including School Hygiene), on the mornings of Thursday, June 23rd, and Friday, June 24th, presided over by Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher, at both of which a number of important subjects were dealt with. Thus Miss Elizabeth M. Wyatt pleaded for closer co-operation between Health Visitors, District Nurses, School Nurses and Midwives, and Miss Hannah Weir, Superintendent Health Visitor at St. Helens, presented an interesting paper on "The Trained Nurse in Public Health," introducing it by saying that "a discussion on the training and qualifications most suitable for a Health Visitor was particularly opportune at the present moment, because the scheme of training outlined by the Board of Education in a circular dated July, 1919, has apparently not met with the measure of success which its sponsors possibly desired."

The Popular Lecture, which is always an interesting feature of the Congress, was this year given by Professor Mellanby, M.A., M.D., on "Vitamines and their Relation to Health."

One result of the Congress should be to interest an increasing number of nurses in the Courses of Lectures, followed by examinations for Health Visitors and School Nurses.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)