

There is now hope that a cure will be found for trachoma, one of the saddest of diseases, as according to a communication made by the Japanese scientist, Dr. Noguchi, to the Conference of the American Medical Association at Washington he has succeeded in isolating the germ. Once the cause of a disease is discovered the remedy is usually soon discovered also.

PROBLEMS OF THE COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE.

Public Health has been one of the main objects discussed at the Colonial Office Conference.

Among the questions that were considered were medical education, the development of medical research, education on health matters throughout the Empire, and the educational use and censorship of films.

From the standpoint of social hygiene important evidence was laid before the Conference by the British Social Hygiene Council. It is recognised that the problem of Venereal Disease and of Social Hygiene is one of outstanding importance in the majority of the Colonies both from the economic and the public health points of view. Evidence obtained both in England and in certain parts of the Empire is forthcoming to show that in order to stamp out the disease the primary need is for medical men and women, specially qualified, to be placed in charge of anti-venereal work with the adequate facilities, bacteriological and other at their command.

The economic problem, it was pointed out, was obviously a serious one. It would appear, however, that two preliminary measures might be taken (a) That in appointing medical officers in the future the Colonial Office should demand of candidates an efficient knowledge of the diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases and (b) That study leave should be given to medical officers already employed to secure the necessary knowledge.

In cases where the appointment of a venereal disease specialist might prove impracticable for some single small unit of the Empire, it might prove effective to appoint a specialist who could hold post-graduate courses in a number of centres, who could devise and supervise special treatment facilities in each centre, who could act as adviser to the chief medical officers on the spot and could promote a campaign for the public enlightenment on the subject.

Many Royal Commissions and Government Enquiries have laid down the principle that progress in public health administration must ultimately depend on public opinion and in this connection have emphasised the importance of the educational aspect of the problem. It was urged, therefore, that in all educational systems there must be included a grounding of the biological sciences on which effective teaching on personal and social hygiene can be based. It was argued also that where this principle has been adopted the results anticipated are being obtained.

THE HOUSING OF THE NATION.

Nothing has a greater influence on the public health than the housing question, and Lieut.-Colonel F. E. Fremantle, M.P., F.R.C.P., Consulting County Medical Officer of Health for Hertfordshire in his book, "The Housing of the Nation," to which, so far we have not had space to make an adequate reference, goes to the heart of the matter when he writes, "It has been said that a Nation will be what its homes make it. Are our homes breeding good and happy citizens, or are they breeding disease, misery, immorality, crime, revolution?" "It is worth while, surely to pause a little over this reflection that for a large section of the working-class there is really no such thing as home. Home life has no meaning for them. They have no part or lot in such things."

HOSPITAL DAY IN AMERICA

Miss Gladys Stephenson writes, from Cleveland, Ohio, on May 12th (the birthday of Florence Nightingale): "I wish you could be over here this week, you would be so interested in the hospital day, Nightingale services and graduating exercises that are going on. Many hospitals observe hospital day and keep open house for the public to visit them. Others have it on the graduation day also. Four of the hospitals in this city have graduation exercises this evening. I enclose the programme of the service at St. Luke's Hospital, St. Paul, where I spent the evening last night and talked with the nurses. Hospitals that are affiliated with a University have their graduation with the University in June, and just have Hospital Day for the public to-day.

"A few nights ago I was present at a banquet given to the graduating nurses by the Junior Nurses of the School. They had an interesting programme in the form of a Toast Voyage. The 'passport toast' spoke of the nurses' credentials; then the 'embarkation toast' told of the Student Nurses' introduction into hospital; that was followed by 'Captain and Crew,' a happy little speech made by their Superintendent of Nurses (Matron). Then 'Fellow Passengers'—a little speech about fellow students. A doctor followed, with a speech on 'Life-boats,' in which the medical staff and their idiosyncrasies were humorously and happily referred to.

"The last toast was 'Arriving at Port,' given by the Hospital Chaplain, a little speech of wise advice, to the new graduates who now start on their life's work. It was such a very happy affair, and greatly enjoyed by all the nurses.

"The following evening the Alumnae entertained the Nurses to dinner. The colours of the class were gold and white, and each chair had a gold and white balloon suspended in the air and tied to the back of it. The table decorations were daffodils and narcissus, and little daffodil paper baskets. The programme was made out in the form of a temperature chart and was fully as amusing as the previous evening.

"On the Sunday morning the Bacca Laureate Sermon was preached at the church. The hospital committee men brought their cars and took the nurses to church, and they looked so pretty as they walked in procession into church wearing white gowns and caps.

"The preacher pointed out what a *real* nurse's life of sympathy and compassion always cost, it could not be lived without the price being paid. It was a fine challenge to the nurses to rise to the spiritual heights that a life of nursing, well and faithfully done, calls for.

"For four months I have been privileged to travel all over the States, down in California, Texas, Arizona, Georgia, Alabama, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Iowa, as well as the Eastern States, and have spoken at different hospitals almost every day. Nursing is certainly advancing well over here, but many nursing movements of a higher educational order are still in the experimental stage. The hospitals are splendidly equipped.

"I am still waiting to go back to China, and doing this lecture tour round the hospitals in the meantime. I have visited most of the University Hospitals in the country."

TRUE TALE WITH A MORAL.

"Nursing History as it is Wrote."

(Overheard at the Cowdray Club.)

NURSE No. 1: "Well! Who is this Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, we hear so much about?"

NURSE No. 2: "Mrs. Fenwick? Why she is the woman who worked so strenuously *against* State Registration for thirty years."

NURSE No. 3 (*indignantly*): "Hottentot!"

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