

## RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF THE CONGRESS MEMBERS.

The first great assembly of the Members of the Congress took place on the evening of September 24th, when His Excellency the Hon. Professor Raffaele Paolucci, M.P., President of the *Fédération Nationale Italiana Fascista* for the Fight against Tuberculosis, and President of Congress, gave a Reception at the Hotel Excelsior in honour of the Members of the Congress. He is a physician, and a hero of the Italian people as with great bravery he sank an enemy cruiser in the war.

The scene was a very brilliant one, some 2,000 members of the General, and Nurses', Congress of many nationalities being present, together with other guests. It had been intimated that decorations should be worn, and as many of the distinguished persons present were entitled to wear them, these, with the elegant dresses, of many hues, added to the brilliancy of the scene, and gay music to its pleasure.

When it became known that His Excellency Benito Mussolini was in the building, feeling became tense with expectation, everyone desiring to obtain a glimpse of the most notable, picturesque, and dominating personality of the Chief of the Government. Elsewhere in this JOURNAL is told how he received in a private salon a few of the most notable Members of the Congress, and to our pride and pleasure, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, was one of those selected for this honour. The position and importance of our National Council, and its relationship to the International Council of Nurses, appears to be thoroughly well understood in Italy and throughout the Congress it was honoured in its President.

The playing of the Fascisti Anthem was an intimation to the wise that the Chief of the Government was passing out of the building, and these managed to obtain a glimpse of the great man, a never to be forgotten privilege.

## THE SOLEMN OPENING OF THE CONGRESS.

The inaugural ceremony of the Sixth Conference of the International Union for the Prevention of Tuberculosis took place in the Grand Hall of the Capitol on the morning of September 25th, and was most impressive. The Congressists and the invited guests entered through the Gate of Sixtus IV., and very soon passing through the Guard of Honour of the Metropolitan Carabinieri, filled the immense hall.

Amongst those present were the Princess of Viggiano, Lady of Honour to the Queen; the Princess of Piombino, Donna Nicoletta Boncompagni, Signora Paolucci, the Marchesa di Targiani Giunti, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, F.B.C.N., President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain; Senator Maragliano, the Hon. Eugenio Morelli, of the University of Pavia; Senator Professor Simonetta, representing the Senate; the Hon. Signor Renda, the Hon. Signor Sardi, Professor Abba, representing the Municipality of Turin; General Gualdi, head of Military Sanitation; and many other notable persons.

Those present rose *en masse* when S.A.R. the Duchesse d'Aosta appeared in Red Cross uniform, which she never laid aside in the course of the long war, she was greeted with enthusiastic applause. Her Royal Highness was scarcely seated in the front row, when the Duce, S.E. Benito Mussolini, appeared and was greeted with loud and prolonged applause. The Chief of the Government, followed by the President of the Congress, took a seat in the centre of the platform beside the Hon. Signor Paolucci and Professor Bernard.

Amidst a profound silence the Governor of Rome, Prince Boncompagni, spoke first in the following words:—

Your Royal Highness, Duce, your Excellencies, Ladies

and Gentlemen, Fascist Italy, second to none in that noble mission of civilisation which aims at raising the hopes and alleviating the pains of suffering humanity, rejoices to entertain in its capital you, who, gathered together from every part of the world, find yourselves united in complete concord of soul, and in noble emulation of resolve, to gain further victories in the fight against tuberculosis. Rome, through me, welcomes you, and expresses the hope that your Congress may mark a further advance in your glorious crusade."

When the applause had subsided, Professor Bernard made a long and precise explanation of the object of the anti-tubercular struggle and of the labours of the Conference. The Hon. Signor Paolucci expressed the great interest of Her Royal Highness and of the Duce in the labours of the Conference, and repeated these words spoken by the latter: "The Statesman who takes no interest in the health of the people whom he governs is like the artificer who does not trouble about the materials with which he has to work." The speaker expressed his pleasure in stating that already thirty-nine nationalities, with a large representation, had responded to the invitation.

He referred also to the very important reports of Prof. Calmette of Paris, and of Prof. Rocco Semma, of Naples, who was to speak the next day on the diagnosis of infantile tuberculosis, as well as to those of Professor Brand, of London, and Professor Brauer, of Hamburg. He concluded by praising the meritorious work of the National Committee on behalf of mothers and infants. Lastly, he announced amid loud applause the object of the Congress—the fusion in one organisation of the forces of all those engaged in fighting the sacred battle against tuberculosis.

## IL DUCE WELCOMES THE CONGRESS.

His Excellency Benito Mussolini, when he rose to speak, received an ovation, and amid the most deferential attention of the audience delivered the following address:—

Your Royal Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I offer you the most cordial welcome in the name of the Italian Government and people, and I would ask you to accept the expression of my profound personal sympathy. Your Congress is holding its Sessions at a moment which is particularly opportune from the point of view of the fight against tuberculosis. All the world of scientists, hygiene specialists, legislators, and philanthropists is on the alert, and the great social scourge is being attacked all along the line. I said social scourge, having in mind the vast proportions of the question and the numerous dangers which it entails. All the conditions for a successful battle are present; the Great War is sufficiently distant, and the post-war crisis is in dissolution. The wave of sloth, which was not only of a material nature, has disappeared; there is almost all over Europe a political and economic stabilisation of order; people have emerged from the shifting quicksands of currency uncertainty, and are working on a more solid foundation. These are the conditions necessary, adequate and happy, to attain victory over the terrible infection. Considering, as I have just said, the wide extent of the phenomenon, we must have proportional methods of combating it. It will be impossible to reach remarkable results without some organised and systematic plan of campaign. The State alone, with its powers, with its resources, is able to conduct this war in an organised and systematic manner. The Fascist Government, which is very careful concerning the health and the future of the race, has opened the campaign against this disease, which claims 120,000 victims yearly. We are only at the beginning, but you will see what we have done; you will know soon how much more we shall do. The progressive application of

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)