

most interesting exhibit from Genoa was a motor dispensary fitted with all the necessities for dealing with cases of tuberculosis in outlying districts, and Naples sent an excellent exhibit of models of different sanatoria. Switzerland's contribution gave us, of course, a glimpse of lovely snow scenes and of some of the sports which are a part of the treatment of tuberculosis in certain stages; the Leysin exhibit brought back to our memory the wonderful efficiency of the treatment carried on there, which impressed us so much when we had the privilege of seeing something of Dr. Rollier's work while we attended the Interim Congress at Geneva last year. By a system of charts, France, in her section at the Exhibition, proudly indicated a great fall in her mortality from tuberculosis between the years of 1886 and 1921; statistics were also set up showing how the number of dispensaries and their staffs of visiting nurses had been increased. In the Polish section we found some exceedingly telling posters, calculated to have a very useful effect in driving home to the public the menace to the race which lies in the tuberculosis scourge. Here, too, the photographs were exceedingly good and, lit from behind, gave a clear impression of the various sanatoria and their activities. Some full-size wax models of organs attacked by the disease were realistic but far from pleasant to the eye of the beholder. A pleasing variation in the exhibit was a collection of wooden toys made by children who were under treatment; no doubt such encouragement of the creative faculty must have considerable therapeutic value.

The Insurance Societies of Italy had their own special exhibit, and here we found pictures of sanatoria and other centres of treatment maintained by them. A law has been established recently in Italy under which every person whose income does not exceed a certain sum is compelled to insure against tuberculosis, and therefore this particular contribution to the Exhibition was of a character to indicate the resources of the various societies to provide for the needs of the insured who might become affected by tuberculosis.

The Industrial Federation of Italy had another large exhibit showing some of the provisions made by the Federation to combat tuberculosis among the workers in the various factories and other centres of industry. Here were indicated the steps taken for the general well-being of their employees, and also products of the various industries federated in the organisation. The Industrial Federation is very wealthy, as all the important centres of industry give financial support to its activities, and it exercises a beneficent influence towards maintaining health in the working-class community. Such co-operation has brought about many reforms, and chief among them is the practice of having, in almost every factory, at least one nurse as welfare superintendent.

Naturally there was a considerable amount of overlapping and similarity in the various exhibits, but "a good story is none the worse for being twice told," and the Exhibition played a valuable part in the educative work of the Congress.

RECEPTION AT THE RED CROSS SCHOOL.

On the evening of September 25th the British Nurses were, with others, bidden to a Reception in honour of the Members of the Reunion of Infirmières at Via Baglivi 16, by the Committee of the Red Cross School.

The guests were received by the Marchesa di Targiani Giunti, President of the Central Organising Committee, and the time passed pleasantly and happily as we renewed acquaintance with friends met in Geneva and Helsingfors.

With true Italian hospitality most sumptuous refreshments were provided, and pressed upon our notice by the Marchesa Stagno di Soreta, Miss Itta Frascara, and others.

THE SECOND MEETING OF THE REUNION.

The Second Meeting of the International Reunion of Nurses was called to order by the Chairman, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, F.B.C.N., President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, on Wednesday, September 26th, at 8.30 a.m.

THE CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

Mrs. Fenwick from the Chair opened the proceedings by saying what an inspiration the few days they had been privileged to spend in the Eternal City had been to the members of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain. She then said:—

Before calling upon the participants to take part in this Conference of Nurses, I desire to offer my personal regret to the audience for my inability to address it in the beautiful Italian language, realising as I do that we can only come into touch with the soul of a people through the expression of its language, its religion, art and labour. How all eminent Italy stands amongst the nations of the world, through expression, the beauty and the glory which is Rome conveys to the heart.

Then I am empowered, as President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, to convey to the organisers of the Conference our appreciation of the courtesy extended to us to participate in its deliberations.

For the first time the International Union against Tuberculosis has provided facilities, and invited trained nurses to take part in its Congress, thus recognising the practical and important service rendered by the Nursing profession in its combat with the ravages of the tubercle bacillus.

This recognition proves the value of our service, without which the application of the great discoveries of science, in relation to tuberculosis cannot be most effectively applied for the benefit of humanity.

This Conference has been summoned to focus attention on this disease which ravages the health of the nations, and the question to which we nurses must find an answer is how can we best qualify ourselves to help in its prevention and its cure?

The transmissibility of the disease was established in 1868 when trained nursing was in its infancy. The great Koch discovered the tubercle bacillus in 1882, and gradual progress has been recorded, and advanced by a long series of Congresses, committees, Royal Commissions, and official reports, in none of which have trained nurses taken an official part, although the technical *personnel* under Public Health Acts includes Health Visitors and Nurses.

The training of the Public Health Nurse requires much wider scope. The Nurse in training must be encouraged to realise the responsibility of citizenship. Starting as the eternal mother and home-maker, human comfort must be the basis of her creed and practice—and by comfort I mean well-being of body and soul; the nurse after systematic training must apply scientific knowledge in practical form—health and happiness must be her ultimate aim. This beautiful world was intended to be a joyous habitation, and there must be less pain and fewer tears. Earth, air, fire and water are the inheritance and right of the people. The nurses' duty is to claim that they be made available. Healthy houses and food, space, light, warmth, cleanliness—these are the fundamental requirements upon which to attain high standards of health, and to prevent, or stamp out disease. Thus alone can the joy of life be effected, and the nurse should be the harbinger of happiness.

Such scourges as tuberculosis, cancer, venereal disease, can and must be attacked with vigour, and such vigour must be inspired by accurate knowledge, untiring vigilance,

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