

## THE WINTER SESSION.

### THE OPENING MEETING.

The first Meeting of the Winter Session of the British College of Nurses when the Representatives of the College at the International Congress on Tuberculosis at Rome presented their Reports was preceded by a Reception attended by many Fellows and Members. The fine entrance Hall, with a wealth of single pink asters on the mahogany table, contrasting most effectively with the pale French grey walls, looked its best, and in the Council Chamber, the Office, where tea was served, the Club Room, and Lecture Hall the flower schemes were most harmonious. The one disappointment of the afternoon was the absence, through illness of the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and many enquiries and expressions of regret were heard when it became known that she would not be present. Most of the Members of the Council were present in their Robes in honour of the occasion.

### THE REPORTS OF THE REPRESENTATIVES AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON TUBERCULOSIS.

In the absence of the President, the Chair was taken by Miss M. Breay, Vice-President, who at the beginning of the Meeting gave a message from Mrs. Fenwick to say how exceedingly disappointed she was to be unable to take part in the Opening Meeting of the Winter Session of the College. The Meeting would have the pleasure of hearing reports from Fellows of the College—specially qualified by their experience in Tuberculosis work to participate in the recent Congress on Tuberculosis at Rome, and the Nurses' Re-union. She hoped that the College Council would take into consideration the question whether some practical steps could be taken as a result of this visit to help in the fight against Tuberculosis.

#### MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT.

Miss Cochrane moved that an expression of sympathy in her illness should be conveyed to the President, and of thanks for her message, and the extreme regret of those present that she could not be with them. This was carried by acclamation.

#### REPORT BY MISS F. M. BARTLEET, A.R.R.C.

The first speaker was Miss F. M. Bartleet, who for seven years worked as Tuberculosis Health Visitor under the St. Marylebone Borough Council. Miss Bartleet made the following Report.

I have just read the October number of our BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING from cover to cover and find that the description of the Tuberculosis Congress at Rome and the activities of the National Council of Nurses and the Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses there present, have already been most faithfully and fully recorded by the very able and eloquent pens of our President and Vice-President (who are the Editor and Assistant Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING). There seems little left to say except these few impressions which will always remain.

September 24th-28th.—Only four days, and yet what a wealth of novelty, experience and fresh knowledge they crammed into us.

To begin with, how wonderfully it was all organised. Before the opening every member of that huge Congress, representing many nationalities, received from the Secretariat his or her large envelope containing documents appertaining to the Congress, programmes, invitations, etc., among which was a most fascinating illustrated card of admission to the solemn opening of the Congress at the Capitol. Everything was carried out to programme without

a hitch—except perhaps when the Medical Members of the Congress annexed for their use the motor buses allotted to the Nurses, as we were on the eve of starting on a most delightful trip to a Children's Tuberculosis Colony upon the mountains.

The second day of the Congress was "our day." Up at cock-crow we all assembled at the Congress Hall at 8 a.m. for the second session of the International Reunion of Nurses, under the Chairmanship of our President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. Her opening address was inspiring, and appeared to be greatly appreciated by the Italian Nurses. Unfortunately the papers and discussions following, read and held in English and Italian, lost many of their best points, owing to their very brief translation. This, however, is inevitable in a gathering of mixed nationalities. Public Health Nursing is carried on entirely under the auspices of the Italian Red Cross working under the Ministry of the Interior, with the lay assistance of the "Fasci Femminili."

The Public Health Nurse, or Sanitary Assistant as she is called, wears a very practical-looking uniform, consisting of a grey alpaca coat and skirt and a felt hat. She seems to be a very live wire and, one would almost think, hers is the most appreciated branch of the Nursing Profession in Italy. Her duties comprise Child Welfare, Schools Inspection, and keeping under observation Factory and Industrial Workers, Tuberculosis, Health Visiting and Anti-Malarial Prevention work. This last is carried out in the low-lying and marshy districts from Rome to the coast, and is a very big and beneficent undertaking, and must entail a great deal of hard work and self-sacrifice. Maternity, including post-natal and ante-natal work, is carried on by a quite separate Department. I was interested to note the complaints made by the Italian Public Health Nurses on the constant overlapping of home visits, a serious point, and one which we too have not yet dealt with in our Metropolitan areas.

Unfortunately, on September 26th, owing to lack of time, we were unable to visit an Anti-Tuberculosis Dispensary, as set out in the programme, but from all I could gather from a Tuberculosis Nurse, her duties were the same as our own with regard to Home Visiting, looking up contacts, and keeping ex-Sanatorium cases under observation. A great deal is done by the Federation of Women in Italy in providing extra nourishment, bedding, clothing, etc.

Our visits to Military and Civil Sanatoria were very hurried, as these Institutions were crowded out with the very large number of Members of the Congress wishing to see over them.

On visiting a Sanatorium in the rest hours from 2 to 4 p.m., I was struck by the very close proximity of the beds on the verandah, and the fact that Graduated Labour and Occupational Therapy did not appear to enter into the scheme of treatment for the patients, who only remain in the institution six to eight months. One feels, however, that one is not in a position to criticise the working and equipment of Tuberculosis Institutions in Italy, on the very brief visits and scrappy information obtained (mostly in French). The ladies who piloted us round, though most courteous and kind, had not the time or opportunity to give one the information necessary to enable one to compare the administration for the Treatment and Prevention of Tuberculosis in Italy with that of our own.

And now I come to the point of our reception in Rome as British Nurses. Those who were not there cannot realise the *great* hospitality and kindness that was meted out to us on all sides.

Our stay at the Scuola Convitto Regina Elena was one of freedom with every home comfort. Miss Snell and her assistants laid themselves out to attend to our every want. As I unfortunately had to take a day in bed just

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