

AN INTERNATIONAL REUNION OF NURSES AT ROME IN SEPTEMBER.

THE FEDERAZIONALE ITALIANA FASCISTA PER LA LOTTA CONTRO LA TUBERCOLOSI.

The Sixth International Anti-Tuberculosis Congress is to be held in Rome next September, and what is specially interesting and important in connection with it is that there is to be convened an International Reunion of Nurses, and that many promoters of the world-wide movement, the International Council of Nurses, have been invited to join the Committee and to attend the Congress, amongst them Mrs. Bedford Fenwick (the Founder of the I.C.N.), and Miss E. M. Musson (Treasurer of the International Council).

The following outline of the programme promises a most interesting and instructive gathering, and it is to be hoped that many Nurses from Great Britain will attend and take part in the work and play of the Congress. The organisation of professional nursing in Italy is having the consideration of Signor Mussolini—who acquainted himself with our doings at Geneva last year—through the personal attendance of the Marchesa Irene di Targiani Giunti, who was thus able to report the aims and objects of international standards of nursing and policy.

Professor Raffaele Paolucci is the President of the forthcoming Congress, and the Preliminary Programme as follows forecasts its scope.

Programme De La VI Conference Internationale Contra La Tuberculose et du Congre Internationale Des Infirmieres, 1928.

September 25th.

8 to 10 a.m.—Exhibition Palace. Distribution of documents.

10 a.m.—Inauguration at the Capitol. Addresses by S.E. Mussolin, Governor of Rome, by de l'On, Paolucci, and L. Bernard.

11 a.m.—Reception at the Capitol, given by the Governor.

2.30 p.m.—Exhibition Palace. Inauguration of the Conference and Addresses.

4.30 p.m.—Discussion on "Methods for developing the faculties of observation of Nurses relating to scientific teaching and social conditions."

8.30 p.m.—Reception at the Red Cross School for Nurses.

September 26th.

8.30 a.m.—Discussion on Nurse Specialists. Preparation moral and technical. Preparation scientific and special for the co-ordination of the Services, in the Dispensary, the Elementary School, and in the Homes of the Sick.

4.30 p.m.—Visit in autobus to Battisti, to the School of Domestic Economy, and to Celio, to the Maraini Institute, and to the Anti-Tuberculosis Dispensary.

7 p.m.—Conference and projection of the Film on Public Health.

September 27th.

The morning as the General Official Programme.

In the afternoon, excursion to Fara Sabina.

In the evening, to "L'Argentina."

September 28th.

Excursion to Anzio. Visit to Military Sanatorium. Visit to the Institute of Malariologie. Closing of the Congress of Hospital Nurses.

September 29th.

Milan. All the Nurses can take part in the excursions

mentioned in the Official Programme, as well as in the visit to the Establishment Magneti Marelli.

We shall hope to give further information as to details in future issues.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT.

An extremely interesting article on the result of the use of artificial sunlight at the Zoo, by the scientific correspondent of *The Times*, is published in that paper. He states: "Wherever ordinary window-glass has been replaced by 'vitaglass' the health of the inhabitants, whether large carnivores, monkeys, or reptiles, has improved, and there has been no single instance of any disadvantage that can be assigned to the change. Naturally animals require some chance of getting into shade when they are so disposed, and this must be provided in the case of houses or cages where sunlight streams through vitaglass, just as much as in the open air. But vitaglass, without doubt, has justified its greater initial cost and, in its present form, its greater brittleness. From the evidence given by its use at the Gardens, there seems no doubt that it would be an advantage in nurseries, workshops, and private houses.

"On the other hand, it seems equally clear that the use of incandescent globes of fused quartz, from which much was expected three years ago, requires extreme care and the most anxious watching. It is a method probably of high value, but only to be employed in special cases, under skilled supervision, in the category of surgical treatment rather than in ordinary hygiene.

"Of the animals exposed to quartz globes, monkeys have responded most favourably, and certainly seemed to enjoy the rays. A young elephant, being treated for rickets, showed rather severe damage to the skin after lengths of exposure which would have been regarded as harmless for human beings.

"Experience at the Gardens has shown clearly that natural sunlight, or sunlight filtered through vitaglass if animals have to be kept indoors, is by far the best source of rays for animals in normal health and to be kept in normal health."

INCREASE IN TUBERCULOSIS.

At the recent Race Betterment Congress at Battle Creek, Michigan, at which Dr. C. C. Little, President of the University of Michigan presided, Dr. S. Adolphus Knopf, of New York City, speaking on "the Alarming Increase in Tuberculosis among Young Women due to Insufficient Nutrition," said that: "this greater frequency of tuberculosis disease among our female population between the ages of 15 and 30 there are, first, the flimsy modern dress of thin material, the sleeveless waist and short skirt, and the low shoes and the silk stockings worn in the coldest weather; second, and equally important, the insane desire for a boyish appearance, causing intentional under-nourishment—the fear that in spite of a good appetite a good meal will produce overweight, ignoring the fact that ten to fifteen pounds overweight between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five are far less dangerous than the same number of pounds underweight. To enhance the boyish appearance, not a few compress their mammary glands by brassieres and rubber bands—endangering the physiological function of those organs when they marry, and when motherhood comes to them."

Looking back upon the lovely women whose beautiful development the late Dr. Matthews Duncan so often commended in his devotion to maternal perfection, we think he would have spoken even more strongly than Dr. Knopf, had he seen the wretchedly undeveloped specimens of femininity who in these days so often evade their maternal duty.

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