

also that pathology will be taught throughout the clinical period, in close association with all the branches of medicine and not be regarded as a special study.

The Report draws attention to the mass of clinical material ready to hand for the study of minor ailments which passes in and out of the casualty and out-patient departments unused, more particularly in the special departments—eye, ear, nose, throat and skin—in which the student can, under proper guidance absorb a large amount of useful information and experience if encouraged to do so. The opinion is expressed that students know they are not likely to be confronted with questions on these specialities in their final examinations, and therefore run the risk of ignorance on these subjects. The remedy appears to lie in having representatives of the special departments on the boards of examiners.

#### The Medical Curriculum.

Their co-operation would lead to the newly qualified practitioner being more familiar with the use of instruments such as the ophthalmoscope and the laryngoscope, and the common disorders of the sense organs which will form a big part of his work in general practice. Much of the time now spent in watching major operations might be more profitably used in attending the casualty department.

The importance of the teaching of preventive medicine throughout the whole curriculum is emphasised.

There should also be a short course in public health and State medicine including forensic medicine, and the main part of the course should be under the direction of a member of the public health service selected for his known ability to teach.

During the period of clinical studies demonstrations should be held in the wards at least fortnightly throughout the period of in-patient clerking and in-patient dressing, on the psychological aspects of patients in the hospital, given either by the physician or surgeon in charge of the ward, or by a colleague attached to the hospital for the purpose of teaching medical psychology. Besides such instruction the student should attend at least six demonstrations at a mental hospital and receive instruction in the general aspects of advanced insanity and mental deficiency.

#### Final Examination.

The Conference recommends that the final examination should consist of two parts:—

I. Medicine, Surgery, and Pathology.

II. Gynæcology, Obstetrics, and Pædiatrics: Public Health and State Medicine, including Forensic Medicine.

It further recommends that more time should be allowed for the clinical and viva-voce parts of the examination than is usually given at present.

It will thus be realised that the whole trend of the Report is to recommend that the teaching of the theory underlying the practice of medicine shall be closely allied to clinical demonstrations throughout the curriculum, proving incidentally how sound is the view held by those members of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales who insist on the importance of this principle in regard to the instruction of nurses in training.

#### VITAMINS OF CABBAGE.

According to Miss Katherine Coward, whose recent address to a section of the Royal Society of Medicine is commented on in the *British Medical Journal*, the vitamin A value of cabbage, whether fresh or boiled, is greater than that of dairy milk or Jersey milk.

Be kind to little animals, whatever sort they be,  
And give a stranded jellyfish a shove into the sea.

## PAN-AMERICAN RED CROSS CONFERENCE, RIO DE JANEIRO.

September 15th—26th, 1935.

The forthcoming Pan-American Red Cross Conference to be held at Rio de Janeiro, from September 15th to 26th, 1935, promises to be a very popular gathering. The Agenda provides scope for discussion on the following subjects:—

Organisation and Development of National Red Cross Societies.

Activities of the National Societies arising out of the Geneva Conventions.

Collaboration of the National Red Cross Societies with other institutions following similar objectives.

Disaster Relief.

Health and Social Assistance—with the following sub-sections:—

(a) Red Cross hospitals, dispensaries and health centres.

(b) The Red Cross and the protection of mother and child.

(c) The rôle of the national Red Cross societies in propaganda and the campaign against the social evils (tuberculosis, venereal disease, cancer, mental disease, alcoholism, drug addiction).

(d) The action of the Red Cross Societies in the campaign against malaria and tropical diseases.

(e) The Red Cross and rural hygiene.

(f) Participation of the Societies of the American Continent in the prevention of blindness and in aid to the blind.

(g) The health of merchant seamen. Wireless consultations.

(h) The action of the Red Cross Societies in the protection of migrants.

(i) The Red Cross and social service, with special reference to the unemployed and their families. The training of social workers.

Nursing:—

(a) The organisation and functions of Red Cross nursing services. Hospital nurses, visiting nurses (general nursing, maternity and infant welfare, school hygiene, the Campaign against tuberculosis, etc.).

(b) The nurse and voluntary aid in disaster.

(c) The training of a team of nurses and first-aid workers (Samaritans). Guiding principles for the creation and improvement of schools of nursing. Technical collaboration of the Secretariat of the League in this field.

A report of the progress of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation will be presented.

#### ECHOES FROM CHINA.

THIS GREAT CAUSE ALL OVER THE WORLD.

Whatever happens in China, somehow it is impossible not to find excuses. The soul of the people is apparent in every detail of their exquisite works of art. Handle an egg-shell cup and saucer or a ruby-backed seven-bordered plate, and one forgets all about bandits and ransoms, or minor details of that sort.

All news which comes from the Chinese Nursing world is vastly interesting, and the "Boy" nurses—often described as "Dressers," physically so slim, deft, gentle—are surely well adapted for the duties of a nurse. The sons of forebears whose fingers fashioned "egg-shell" should have a magic touch in soothing pain.

We are fortunate in having many nurse friends in China whose letters contain items in which we are deeply interested.

#### PERSIAN GOVERNMENT HONOURS MISS LORRAINE.

Her colleagues will be gratified to learn that Miss Ellen Mary Lorraine, M.B.C.N., for many years Matron of Maude Memorial Hospital, Basra, Iraq, has had the Order of Ar Rafidain, bestowed upon her by the Persian Government, "in recognition of her great services."

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