

## THE SIXTEENTH INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE, LONDON.

JUNE 20TH TO 24TH, 1938.

The unanimous decision of the Standing Commission of the International Conference of the Red Cross, to accept the invitation of the British Red Cross Society to hold the Conference in London in June, since it was not possible to have it in Madrid as originally contemplated, means no doubt that there will be a great gathering in London, representative of all the Red Cross Societies from all parts of the civilised world.

A Provisional Agenda is published in the *Monthly Bulletin* of the League of Red Cross Societies, from which it appears that a vast amount of business will be transacted, and a very interesting programme discussed.

The Duke of Gloucester, who is Chairman of the Council of the British Red Cross Society, will preside at the opening session at St. James's Palace on June 20th.

On the three following days meetings of the commission will be held at the British Medical Association House. The closing session will be held at St. James's Palace on Friday, June 24th, and will be followed by a Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's Cathedral.

Consideration of the Geneva Convention will be an important part of the proceedings. It is hoped that new principles dealing with war in the air will be proposed, and that the Geneva and Hague Conventions may be merged, so that land, sea, and air warfare may be dealt with in a single code of laws. A plan for the creation of neutralised hospital zones in war areas, sponsored by the International Congress of Military Medicine, will also be considered; and there will be discussions on Red Cross activity during civil war, a problem which has been intensified by recent events in Spain; the question of first aid on the roads of the world; the future of air ambulances; and anti-gas training.

Nursing affairs will also be discussed and the Florence Nightingale Medal awarded. Many social functions are being arranged, which remind us of the programme of the International Congress of Nurses in July last. There will be a reception at Lancaster House. Delegates will have the honour of being received by Their Majesties the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace.

The information and registration office of the Conference will be open at the British Medical Association House, 19b, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, from Wednesday, June 15th, onwards, and delegates are requested to register at that address and apply there for their papers.

### THE RED CROSS CLINIC FOR RHEUMATISM.

The Annual Report of the British Red Cross Society's Clinic for Rheumatism shows that its activities are being carried on to the fullest possible extent that the present accommodation permits.

#### THE DEAR ANIMALS.

##### THE BELLS OF HEAVEN

"T'would ring the bells of Heaven  
The wildest peal for years,  
If parson lost his senses  
And people came to theirs,  
And he and they together  
Knelt down with angry prayers  
For tamed and shabby tigers,  
And dancing dogs and bears,  
And wretched, blind pit ponies,  
And hunted little hares.

Ralph Hodgson.

## OUTSIDE THE GATES.

### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.

The National Council of Women of Great Britain announces that the International Council of Women Jubilee Meeting will be held in Edinburgh from July 11th to 22nd next, and it will, we feel sure, be a record occasion, as it is probable that delegates will attend from many lands, when they will not only take part in the Conference to be held, but visit Scotland's Empire Exhibition opened by the King on May 3rd, at Glasgow, which promises to be representative and splendid in every particular—buildings, exhibits and side-shows.

The National Council of Women has issued a "Circular of Welcome" in which it states that it is forty years since the British National Council became affiliated to the International Council of Women, and only once, in 1899, has the full Council met in Great Britain. On that memorable occasion the delegates had the honour of being received by Queen Victoria and the first of the Council's many great peace demonstrations was held at the Queen's Hall under the title of "International Arbitration," and under the then President, the Countess of Aberdeen, now Ishbel, Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair.

It has now fallen to the share of the British Council to welcome the International Council of Women upon one of its most momentous occasions—the fiftieth anniversary of its origin, and in issuing this short circular, the President, the Lady Ruth Balfour, M.B., B.S., and the British Council express their hope that this Jubilee Conference may prove to be one of the greatest ever held in the history of our movement. They feel that such a gathering may help to illustrate farther the unity of the women of the world in their desire for peace and friendship, and may provide fresh encouragement and stimulus to the National Councils.

The Scottish Branches are an integral part of the British Council, and it is a source of peculiar satisfaction to the Scottish Standing Committee, through which they are united, that Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland, has been chosen as the meeting-place of the International Conference. Extensive preparations are already being made for the entertainment of the delegates and visitors, but in the circular to hand only a broad outline can be indicated.

We feel sure the Nurses' organisations affiliated to the National Council of Women will be eager to take part in the Conference and ceremonies at Edinburgh—one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Further information can be obtained from the General Secretary, Mrs. Wall, 92, Gower Street, London, W.C.1.

### WHAT TO READ

#### MEMOIRS AND BIOGRAPHY.

- "The Enigmatic Czar" (Alexander I of Russia). Maurice Paléologue.
- "Insanity Fair." Douglas Reed.
- "The World of Action." Valentine Williams.
- "Once a Commissar." Vladimir Koudrey.
- "Lord Esher's Journals." Vol. 3, 1910-1915.
- "The Whispering Gallery of Europe." Major-General A. C. Temperley.
- "Lilian Baylis." Sybil and Russell Thorndike.

#### FICTION.

- "No Spring Till Now." Henrietta Leslie.
- "Serenade." James M. Cain.
- "Pray for the Wanderer." Kate O'Brien.
- "The Moon is Feminine." Clemence Dane.
- "Their Eyes Were Watching God." Zora Hurston (America's foremost Negro novelist).
- "Love the Destroyer." Margaret Leigh.

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