

THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE.

TO BE OPENED BY THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER.

More than 60 Governments and national Red Cross Societies are to be represented at the Sixteenth International Red Cross Conference, which the Duke of Gloucester will open at noon on Monday, June 20th, at St. James's Palace. He will be supported at the opening session by Professor Max Huber (President of the International Red Cross Committee, Geneva), Mr. Norman Davis (Chairman of the League of Red Cross Societies, Paris), and Sir Arthur Stanley (Chairman of the Executive Committee of the British Red Cross Society).

The Princess Royal will be present at a thanksgiving service at St. Paul's Cathedral at 3.30 p.m. on Saturday, June 25th, conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

THE RED CROSS CLINIC FOR RHEUMATISM.

The British Red Cross Society's Clinic for Rheumatism is one of its most beneficent works, and from its Annual Report we realise its great value to the community.

There have been 90,884 attendances for treatment in the General Patients' Department, involving 134,184 treatments, and so great has been the demand for the services of the clinic that for two periods during the year it was found advisable to cease to accept new women patients, in order to clear the waiting list.

In view of the importance of early treatment in cases of rheumatic diseases, the report refers with satisfaction to the increasing use of the evening sessions, which are held with the object of enabling those engaged in industry to attend for treatment without the disadvantage of having to get off from work.

The importance of research is borne constantly in mind as essential to any real progress in the conquest of rheumatism, and the Specialists' Department, providing for the most expert advice on particular aspects of rheumatic disease, is fully maintained.

The Clinic has become a recognised centre for enquiries and a training centre for specialised forms of training and treatment for members of the medical profession and for nurses, for massage students interested in hydrotherapy, and for student almoners.

The majority of the patients come from London, many from the home counties, and a certain number from practically every county in England. A number of visitors to England come to the Clinic for treatment during the course of visits to this country.

With so much that is satisfactory to report, one difficulty remains! Sir Arthur Stanley calls attention to the serious fact that the Clinic has a financial deficit each year, and unless increased funds can be obtained this much-needed work may have to be curtailed and its benefits denied to the many men and women whose means do not enable them to obtain elsewhere adequate treatment. When it is realised that the Clinic costs £26,091 6s. 8d. to maintain, it is no easy matter to secure this support from year to year.

A WORD FOR THE MONTH.

"What humanity requires to-day is a spiritual science. We are only on the fringe of the science of the Soul."

MRS. ISABEL KNOWLING,
British Union of Practical Psychologists.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

Hughenden for the Nation.

The annual Primrose Day pilgrimage to the grave of the great "Disraeli" at Hughenden, learned that there is every likelihood that Hughenden Manor may be reserved for the nation.

They also heard of the probable formation of a Disraelian Society which would have the care of the Beaconsfield papers and heirlooms so that they might remain in the house.

The National Theatre.

The deeds of the site of the projected National Theatre in South Kensington were recently handed to Mr. Bernard Shaw, who, of course, could not resist the temptation of a dig at the English people. People sometimes asked him: "Do the English people want a national theatre? Of course they did not. They never wanted anything. They had got the British Museum, the National Gallery and Westminster Abbey, but they never wanted them. But once these things stood as mysterious phenomena that had come to them, they were quite proud of them, and felt that the place would be incomplete without them."

Lord Snell said that the position of the National Theatre to-day was one of great hope and encouragement. A National Theatre could do what a private theatre could not always do; it could work to a predetermined standard of selection and of excellence.

Plea for Nursery Schools.

The National Union of Teachers is always very voluble at holiday seasons, and what is refreshing they never agree *en masse*.

We are in sympathy with Mr. W. E. Rooke pleading recently at a meeting for nursery schools, when he said: "That unless something were done 500,000 children between two and five would enter the infant schools suffering from some defect. This definitely established the case for the nursery school on medical grounds. Educationally, it was generally recognised that children benefited greatly from nursery school provisions. Many so-called nursery classes were merely cheap travesties of the nursery school, although they were complacently accepted as something of sterling worth.

"A resolution was carried urging on local education authorities the need of adequate provision of nursery schools and nursery classes, always insisting on equal standards of accommodation, sanitary and hygienic arrangements, staffing, and medical supervision in both types of institution. It was also claimed that the Government grant for these provisions should be considerably increased."

Alas! this demand is always the sting in the tail of all demands for social evolution.

Pensions for "Spins."

Spinsters have made "Pensions" a very live question—and the Government has decided to appoint a Committee in accordance with the resolution adopted in the House of Commons with respect to pensions disabilities of certain unmarried women. Spinsters, during youth, often give so much to their families; they deserve some reward.

Mother's Flag in Memory of V.C. Son.

Mrs. A. M. Bradford, mother of two sons who were awarded the Victoria Cross, took part recently in laying the foundation-stone of a Folkestone church hall to be called St. George's Hall. She presented a St. George's flag in memory of her son, Lieutenant-Commander G. N. Bradford, V.C., who was killed at Zeebrugge. Wearing her son's V.C. and a sprig of rosemary, Mrs. Bradford broke the flag on a flagstaff adjoining the site of the hall.

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