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EDITORIAL.

PERSONAL CONTACTS ON INTERNATIONAL GOOD WILL.

We have the greatest faith in Conferences, and since our last issue, earnest people have met and exchanged expert views and experience on questions from which valuable results will no doubt benefit humanity.

THE CARE OF CRIPPLES.

The Fourth World Conference of Workers for Cripples, recently held at Bedford College, London, opened by Lord Nuffield, received the following message of welcome from the Queen.

WARM WELCOME FROM THE QUEEN.

"As patron of the Fourth World Conference of Workers for Cripples, I take great pleasure in sending to you a word of warm welcome on this, the first occasion that this gathering has taken place in London.

"I am delighted to learn that it has been possible for representatives from so many countries to be present at this meeting, for I am convinced that it is only by such personal contacts that we can build once again the foundations of international good will, which is the keystone of all human undertakings. I have heard with interest of the practical way in which your President has encouraged the great progress that has been made in orthopaedic hospitals in recent years. I would like also to take this opportunity of expressing to all the delegates present my deep appreciation of the work they are doing for the less fortunate of our fellow citizens throughout the world.—ELIZABETH R."

The conference, arranged by the International Society for the Care of Crippled Children and the Central Council for the Care of Cripples, was attended by delegates from 32 countries.

Welcoming the delegates, Lord Nuffield, the president of the conference, said that it was a work of love to see what could be done to alleviate suffering and to put straight those children who had been born less fortunate than others. There was, he thought, nothing better worth doing than to endeavour to see that the children did not grow up crippled, although born so, and also to see that even those who had been neglected should have at any rate a chance of being straightened out.

Mr. P. H. King, president of the International Society for Crippled Children, also welcomed the delegates.

Mr. Elliot, Minister of Health, said:—

"No doubt the treatment and appliances which resulted from the study of the large-scale problem of disability created by the Great War had speeded up our progress

towards reducing to a minimum the handicap of physical disability, but there was still much to be done. The Central Council for the Care of Cripples estimated that there were to-day some 200,000 persons in England and Wales who were either handicapped or who were in need of special treatment to prevent their becoming handicapped.

"Approximately half the number were children under 16, and the Central Council estimated that as many as 9.5 children of every 1,000 under that age would benefit from some form of orthopaedic treatment."

The Minister of Health drew attention to another aspect of the problem accidents in industry, many of which crippled the victim either temporarily or permanently. In this country an Inter-Departmental Committee had just completed its inquiry into that important problem and presented its report. The report contained a number of important recommendations designed to improve the existing arrangements for dealing with such cases and restoring the working capacity of the injured. In particular the committee urged that fractures of the limbs, which formed the most important group of those injuries from several points of view, should receive specialised treatment, and that special departments should be established for the purpose at hospitals, whether voluntary or municipal, where the great majority of such injuries were treated. An adequate staff working as a team and expert in the treatment of that class of injury was regarded by the committee as essential.

Messages of good wishes were delivered by many delegates from abroad, including representatives of Argentina and most of the South American Republics, Belgium, Burma, Canada, China, Lithuania, Poland, Denmark, the United States, France, Germany, and Italy.

During the Conference it was addressed by many eminent men from abroad.

Mr. Leland S. Burgum, of the Teachers' College, Columbia University, U.S.A., said that it was the duty of educationists to train not only the crippled child and his teacher but to educate parents and the general public.

Pastor D. Vietor, chairman of the Union of German Cripple Institutions, of the Inner Mission, Johanna-Helene Home, Westphalia, said that in Germany it had been necessary to utilise all available sources of labour, and it was possible to employ cripples, who, when trained, could obtain salaries and positions equal to those enjoyed by normal persons.

Mr. C. W. Maudslay, Principal Assistant Secretary to the Board of Education, paid tribute to the teachers in orthopaedic hospital schools, of which there are 51 in England and Wales, providing accommodation for

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