

UNITED YOUTH MISSIONARY EXHIBITION.

In these times of crises and uncertainty, when each day makes history and men's hearts fail, it is indeed an encouragement to witness an effort on the part of our churches to show their united front and to steady the atmosphere by reminding people of "Things Eternal"—of that which remains sure and steadfast. Never before has the Christian Church planned such an event as the United Youth Missionary Exhibition, to take place at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, from January 12th to February 1st. The different denominations will gather as one family under the same roof for a united witness. Here we shall be reminded of the greatness and the universality of the Christian Message, and of the glorious certainty of the fulfilment of the promises of God. It is well to take stock and to remember the former years of the Most High, and it is well to face the claims of the future.

Nurses are especially welcome to this Exhibition, and naturally they will find the Medical Section of great interest. There will be short talks on medical missionary work, films and slides, and interesting exhibits. Admission is 6d., and refreshments can be obtained at the Exhibition. Tickets can be bought at the door or in advance. Parties of 12 or more are 4d. per head, if they book in advance. Application for tickets may be made to Miss Monica Bromley, United Youth Missionary Exhibition, 42, Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4 (telephone, Central 4155).

The Medical Sub-Committee strongly recommend this Exhibition to the notice of all nurses, and hope that when they come to the Medical Section they will make themselves known. They want them to have that real fellow-feeling with all associated in this work, and they are promised an extremely interesting time.

WEDDING BELLS.

The announcement of the recent marriage between Sir Maurice Jenks who was Lord Mayor of London in 1931-1932, and Miss Constance Edith Currie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Currie, of Beckenham, Kent, who was trained at Charing Cross Hospital, and nursed the late Lady Jenks in her last illness, is specially interesting, as Sir Maurice is not the first Lord Mayor of London to marry a professional nurse, and it is to be hoped that he and his wife will enjoy the same degree of happiness as did his predecessor, Sir John Baddeley, when he married Miss Mathews, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, who during her reign at the Mansion House won golden opinions from her colleagues by her gracious hospitality to them and association with them on various occasions.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AND THE RED CROSS.

Her Majesty the Queen has most graciously given a special donation to the British Red Cross Society, of which Her Majesty is the President.

DISEASE BROUGHT BY AIR.

Dr. J. R. Draper, late Medical Inspector of Aliens at Croydon Air Port, has given publicity to a very serious matter. Writing in *The British Medical Journal*, he discloses the fact that the new arrangement for the inspection of passengers arriving at the air port there will be a medical officer present for only two or three hours a day. Thus he emphasises the fact that Britain is wide open for the admission of cases of infectious disease, and states "if a case of virulent small-pox were brought into this country during the incubation period it might well be the cause of an epidemic."

PROFESSIONAL REVIEW.

LEPROSY.

Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention.

This extremely interesting book, published by the Indian Council of the British Empire Leprosy Association by Dr. E. Muir, C.I.E., F.R.C.S.Edin., and in its sixth edition, has been re-written and now contains 192 pages and 86 illustrations. It is beautifully printed on fine paper, and is amazingly cheap at the price of 4s. (postage, 5d.).

The preface states that "much of the teaching found in standard text-books has been omitted in order to make it possible to condense within a few pages knowledge that is absolutely essential for understanding the nature of the disease and the lines along which it may be dealt with successfully."

"Since the fifth edition was published, considerable advances have been made in our knowledge of leprosy. Many statements appearing in that edition need revision in the light of more recent research and clinical experience . . ."

As is indicated in the title, the book is divided into three parts. The first deals with the nature of the disease from the historical, etiological, bacteriological, pathological and clinical aspects. These lead up to *diagnosis*, which includes not only the recognition of the disease itself, but seeks to make plain the methods of ascertaining the type and—that all-important factor in each case—the resistance of the patient to the infection.

"The second part is devoted to *treatment*, both in its general and special aspects, and a chapter is added on prognosis."

"In the third part, *prophylaxis* is discussed. The preventive aspects of leprosy have assumed a much more important position in the last few years, and this is discussed at much greater length than in the former editions."

But the inspiring note in the book is the note of hope. No longer is the diagnosis of leprosy the death warrant of the patient. While it is still one of the most difficult problems with which the medical profession is faced, the book seeks to explain leprosy as far as it is at present understood, and "to lay down certain principles which, if followed out intelligently and energetically, should, in the end, help towards ultimate control, and there is, at the present time, a definite prospect of cure in a proportion of the cases."

Again, we read, "it must be clearly understood that, like tuberculosis, leprosy may be a very slight disease, the infection proving abortive and the lesions healing up spontaneously without special treatment. Indeed, there is good evidence that self-healing takes place in a very large proportion of those infected in an endemic area. This self-healing is largely dependent on a timely restoration or improvement of the general health of the patient."

"At a much more advanced stage of the disease, self-healing frequently occurs. In patients of the C 3 type, the infection will gradually die out, the cutaneous giving place to the secondary neural form; till only crippling and deformities of the face and limbs are left as signs of the former disease. The reason for the destruction of lepra bacilli in these cases is difficult to determine."

Through the whole book runs the golden thread of hope. Thus, later, we read, "Leprosy is not a fatal disease. Patients die from complications and neglect rather than from the disease itself. . . . The public, and even the medical profession, are unaware that leprosy may be a very mild disease, and that even without special treatment many cases recover completely."

"Contrast this with the view taken in England by the Church in the Middle Ages, which was largely responsible

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