

DEAN EFFIE TAYLOR IN EUROPE.

Coming events cast their shadows before them. Already, Miss Effie Taylor, President of the International Council of Nurses, is in Europe; she has visited London and Scotland, and attended the Congress of the "Nurses of the North" at Oslo, organised by Sister Bergljot Larsson, the "Nightingale of the North."

Miss Taylor intends to visit Sweden and Denmark and other European countries, and acquaint herself with existing nursing conditions.

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF THE DISCOVERY OF INSULIN.

At the Royal Institution on Friday, July 5th, the Diabetic Association held a jubilee celebration to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the discovery of insulin. Doctor Lawrence welcomed those present, especially visitors from Canada. It was unusual, said Doctor Lawrence, to celebrate an event so soon as 25 years, but this was a unique celebration in that the meeting was a gathering of otherwise dead people. He would now introduce Sir Henry Dale who had taken a very active part in the standardisation of insulin and was a Vice-President of the Association.

Sir Henry said he considered that the event being celebrated formed a turning point in the recent history of medical knowledge. Just over 25 years ago two young Canadians with little previous experience embarked on a quest for a prize which had eluded previous seekers. They were able not only to establish the existence of the long sought "insulin"—the hormone missing from the diabetic body's chemical equipment—but even to prepare it in sufficient quantity for practical trial.

In recalling this achievement, the untimely death in 1941 at the age of 50 of Frederick Grant Banting, the senior of the two young pioneers, was remembered. All present joined in welcoming the presence of Charles Best, Banting's younger partner.

Sir Henry then outlined the stages by which the position, as it was in 1921, had been reached. While preparing a lecture on diabetes, Banting was seized with an idea for the extraction of insulin. He put aside his practice and approached Professor McLeod at Toronto for accommodation. Charles Best, a recent pupil of Prof. McLeod, joined him. They worked together and after strenuous weeks eventually achieved success. Further developments which resulted in large-scale production of insulin were left to others. Sir Henry felt that note should be taken of the stimulating effect that the discovery had on a much larger field of knowledge in succeeding years. Whole ranges of hormones and vitamins were isolated and characterised and even prepared by artificial synthesis.

Professor Charles Best said the occasion was marred by Banting's absence. He recalled many personal memories of his late colleague. They actually began work together on May 17th, 1921. They had both been interested in diabetic patients for many years. In their work together he derived great benefit from Banting's perseverance.

A MATTER OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE NATION.

The following communication of Sir Alfred H. Watson, of London, to the *Daily Telegraph* on August 1st emphasises the most dangerous attack on the freedom of the people of this country, and we invite our readers, professional and otherwise, to help journalists to maintain their honourable independence.

Such ministerial tyranny should be stamped into perdition without one moment's hesitation by every British subject in the Kingdom.

The day has gone past when such responsible professional persons as Registered Nurses can stand aside on subjects touching the liberty and lives of all:—

BAN ON NON-UNION REPORTERS.

FROM SIR ALFRED WATSON
TO THE EDITOR OF THE *Daily Telegraph*.

SIR,—Reading in my morning papers that Mr. George Isaacs, Minister of Labour, refused to open a Press Conference at Newcastle until all reporters present had produced their union cards, I am left to suppose that this is the latest, and most dangerous, development of Labour's campaign against Press freedom.

Hitherto the only body that has required a certificate of trade union membership from reporters attending its proceedings has been the T.U.C. Is the same rule to be applied in Whitehall under our present governors? Is the sole passport to Government information to be a trade union card? If so, thousands of journalists, many of them holding the more important positions, will be denied approach to Ministers.

Mr. Isaacs has apparently taken it upon himself to out-caste all earning their living by journalism who do not contribute to trade union funds. To take a personal example: It is over 50 years since I entered the Press Gallery of the House of Commons. During that period I have been always a working journalist, gaining my bread by my pen. I have attended scores of conferences with Ministers and my status has never been questioned, but I have never held a union card. Only now do I find myself unworthy of reception by a Minister who was once a worker on the same journal as myself.

Has Mr. Isaacs the support of his Ministerial colleagues in this attempt to differentiate between members of the same profession? If so, a far more important matter than the ownership of newspapers is involved. The freedom of the individual journalist is at stake.

Every member of the Institute of Journalists, the oldest professional body, is barred from becoming a member of the National Union of Journalists by the rules of that organisation. He is denied the union card. Mr. Isaacs would, apparently, in an effort to expand and extend the power of the unions over the newspapers, deny him Government information, and then complain, as does Sir Hartley Shawcross, that certain newspapers do not give the Ministry as much space in their columns as he holds to be its due.

Surely when, if ever, the Royal Commission on the Press is set up, a far more important matter than monopoly in ownership into which it should enquire is whether its sources of information are to be dammed up by Ministers enjoying a few brief years of authority and power. I am, etc.,

London, S.W.7.

ALFRED H. WATSON.

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