

THE CANTOR LECTURES.

A. C. Fraser, M.D., D.Sc., Ph.D., M.R.C.P., Professor of Pharmacology of the University of Birmingham, gave the Cantor Lecture recently at the Royal Society of Arts. His subject was the Metabolism of Fats. An extremely interesting and ably given lecture on a highly technical subject. One of great interest to students, but somewhat too technical for any detailed account to be given here by me.

The third in the series, given by Sir J. Drummond, D.Sc., F.R.I.C., F.R.S., was of much more general interest. His subject was, "Fats in the Life of the Nation." He commenced by saying that fats in the diet were both visible and invisible. We consume quite an appreciable amount of fat in our diet apart from the visible butter, oils and meat fat of which we, as a nation, are so fond. Both are very important dietetically. Fats are of a very high energy value, and are almost completely absorbed. They slow up digestion in the stomach, and for this reason help to give the satisfied feeling after a fatty meal.

The lack of fats in the diet does not produce any signs of ill health; but they are essential to the proper absorption of the vitamins. This has been proved by careful investigations among the peoples of Europe during the time immediately following the Nazi occupation. Food habits account for our liking for fatty meals in this country. This is something which makes life so difficult for the housewife, who receives all the grumbles if the meals are not satisfying enough. He told us that our fat consumption is actually only 15 per cent. lower than pre-war. He then went on to explain that the fat ration today was quite adequate. The margarine that we eat today was every bit as nourishing as butter, though not perhaps quite so tasty. There is no foundation for the belief that it is indigestible. Most of the attacks on margarine have been launched by the butter producing areas of the world. It has been proved by recent experiments that butter, in the summer season, has some slightly better food value, due to an acid produced in the summer milk. This is not of any practical value, however, and may be disregarded.

There is no doubt at all that there is a serious world fat shortage at the present time. The immediate outlook is very serious. This is due to war damage and the far reaching effects of it. The shortage of animal feeding stuffs has made this worse, as it has considerably reduced the production of animal fats. The only solution lies in developing the tropical belt of the world; and in increasing the output of ground nuts, and of oil-seed for animal food.

He then gave a brief account of the experiments of the Germans in the production of synthetic fats. The authorities in this country have gone carefully into the claims made by the Nazis regarding these fats and have found that the synthetic fats are no good nutritionally. There is no way out along those lines.

In conclusion, he summed up by saying that while we are not short of fats in this country at the moment, we shall be, in common with the rest of the world in the near future, unless great developments take place quite soon.

U. SPON.

NURSING ECHOES.

We observe in the lay-owned nursing Press an advertisement for the post of Executive Secretary to the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, an association of nurses' leagues founded by the late Editor of this Journal upwards of forty years ago, and of which this Journal was appointed the accredited official organ by the International Council of Nurses.

As only a space of eighteen days may elapse from the insertion of this advertisement to the time applications must be to hand, the matter must be of the greatest urgency in consideration of the importance of the post.

By the irony of fate we notice in one of the papers that this announcement is placed *second in position* to that of General Secretary to the National Association of State Enrolled Assistant Nurses, a body of semi-trained women having been in existence for a matter of only four years!

Does not this fact cause nurses some disquiet concerning the apparent indifference to the recognition of the importance of the high ethical ideals of the status of the fully qualified Registered Nurse, and all for which she stands?

There are immediate vacancies for State Registered Nurses in Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service.

Additional qualifications are an asset but not essential. Applicants must be between 22-35 years of age, single or widows without children.

Selected candidates will be required to serve for a period of three years at the end of which time a gratuity of £97 10s. will be granted. After the first year's service they will become eligible for consideration for permanent appointments as vacancies occur.

There is a possibility of overseas service.

An initial allowance of £50 is given for uniform and £15 each year subsequently for upkeep. Salary is based on Rushcliffe scale.

We note that Miss A. Holder, S.R.N., R.F.N., has been appointed. Matron of Lodge Moor Hospital, Sheffield, and wish her much happiness and success in her new office, especially in these difficult times, when the responsibility of the Matron is no criterion.

The Right Hon. Lord Inman has accepted the office of President of the Health Congress, which is to be held at Harrogate from May 24th to 28th next by the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Eight sections have been arranged for the Congress, and these will deal with: Preventive Medicine; Engineering and Architecture; Maternal and Child Health; Veterinary Hygiene; Food and Nutrition; Housing and Town Planning; Tropical Hygiene; Hygiene in Industry. In addition, there will be conferences of medical officers of health, engineers and surveyors, sanitary inspectors and health visitors.

Among the presidents of sections and conferences will be the following:—

Professor G. S. Wilson, Director, Public Health Laboratory Service; Professor P. A. Buxton, C.M.G., Professor of Entomology, London School

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)