

Editorial.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MILITARY MEDICINE AND PHARMACY.

THE Fifth International Congress was held in London from May 6, to May 11, under the Presidency of Lieutenant-General Sir Matthew Fell.

The home of the British Medical Association in Tavistock Square was the Congress centre, the great hall being used for the principal meetings and the extension for the exhibition and writing and club rooms for the members and the ladies accompanying them.

The Congress was attended by nearly 1,000 members. There were delegates from forty countries, as well as from the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

On the morning of May 6 the delegates visited Westminster Abbey. In the north transept a procession was formed to the tomb of the Unknown Warrior, where it was met by the Dean and Canons, and a wreath was deposited on the grave by General Rouppert and Inspector-General Lanne.

In the afternoon the Congress was formally opened by the Secretary of State for War, Sir Laming Worthington-Evans, who welcomed the delegates and the representatives of the Red Cross Societies, whose work had done so much to alleviate the horrors of war. Sir Laming said it was an inspiring thought that in the field of medicine the nations of the world had reached a unanimity of aim which was still far to seek in the realm of international politics. The medical services were ranged on the same side against a common enemy, and the cause they served transcended those rivalries which added so much to the statesman's task. In the sphere of military medicine it was possible to meet and exchange freely the fruits of research, secure in the knowledge that they would never be used except in the cause of humanity. "Yours," said Sir Laming, "is an easier task than that of the statesman. You can identify the enemy against whom you are combining. You may not always know whence he comes and whither he goes, but can recognize him as an enemy. The statesmen are in greater difficulty; whilst wishing to combine against war as you combine against disease, they cannot as easily identify the cause of war. You are leading in this matter of co-operation, and I hope the statesmen may follow with equal success."

Sir Laming then commented on the variety of the programme provided for the Congress and thanked the British Medical Association for so generously placing its magnificent hall at their disposal.

The President then gave his address. Sir Matthew Fell said the British members of the Services extended a hearty welcome to their colleagues from all parts of the world. The medical services must necessarily function in accordance with the army organizations of the country they served. These must vary with every army and with the terrain and climate in which operations took place. During the progress of war limits were prescribed by purely military necessity. But the main objects were the

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same for all armies—to maintain the high standard of health and to bring to the wounded as rapidly as possible the fullest benefits which medical science could supply.

Those who read the story of medical aid in war could not fail to be struck by two things. The first was the comparatively recent acceptance of the advantages to an army, both in peace and war, of a highly-organized medical service. It was not until the Napoleonic wars that any real advance was made in medical organization. The war in the Crimea gave to history the name of Florence Nightingale and opened to women of education the service of nursing, both military and civil. The Geneva Convention and the vast developments of the International Red Cross had their origins even within living memory.

The second impression conveyed by the study of medical aid in war was the influence of war in accelerating the acceptance of the general discoveries of medical science. The experiences in the Franco-German War of 1870 led those nations who saw their wounded die by the thousand from surgical infections to press forward the principles advocated by Lord Lister, so tardily accepted in this country.

Our terrible losses from enteric fever during the South African War stimulated a brilliant band of workers to elaborate the method of prevention by vaccine treatment, which had proved of benefit to humanity throughout the world.

In conclusion, Sir Matthew Fell expressed his belief that the efforts of statesmen throughout the world to-day to make war impossible were watched by none with more sympathy than by the members of the medical services whose sphere of duty brought them in contact with all the horrors which war involved.

Inspector-General Lanne of the French Army and General Stanislas Roupert of the Polish Army responded for the delegates.

After these proceedings the delegates and members proceeded to the exhibition, in which the delegates and members spent some time. In addition to the commercial display there was a Service exhibition of the equipment used in the Royal Navy, the Army, and the Royal Air Force. Among the items of special interest of the R.A.F. equipment were the Reid flying aptitude apparatus, Flack's rebreather bag, and the apparatus used to ascertain the effects of rotary movement.

The principal delegates were afterwards received by the Prince of Wales at St. James's Palace. They were presented to His Royal Highness by the Secretary of State for War. After the ceremony refreshments were served in the Picture Gallery.

On Monday evening, May 6, at the Hotel Cecil, a dinner was given by the Government to the principal official delegates and distinguished visitors. Sir Laming Worthington-Evans was in the Chair, and about 120 sat down to dinner. Among British medical men invited to meet the guests from abroad were: Sir John Rose Bradford, Lord Moynihan, Sir

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Lenthal Cheatle, Sir Richard Luce, Sir Ewen Maclean, Dr. C. O. Hawthorne, Mr. Bishop Harman, Sir George Makins and Lieutenant-Colonel C. T. Samman (Society of Apothecaries).

After the toast of "The King," and the Sovereigns of the Kingdoms and Presidents of the Republics represented had been honoured, Sir Laming Worthington-Evans proposed the health of the guests. Brief replies were made by General Stanislas Roupert (Poland) and General Demolder (Belgium). After the dinner, the delegates and members were entertained at an official Government reception at Lancaster House, the guests being received by Sir Laming and Lady Worthington-Evans.

The first session was opened on Tuesday, May 7, and there was a discussion on the evacuation of wounded by water and by air.

Surgeon Commander A. A. Vavasour Elder, D.S.C., R.N.V.R., dealt with evacuation by sea; Group-Captain Hardy Wells, C.B.E., K.H.P., R.A.F., introduced the subject of evacuation by air. A report on this subject was also presented by M. Oudard, Médecin en Chef de 1^{re} Classe de la Marine Nationale and M. Schickele, Médecin Lieutenant-Colonel de l'Armée Métropolitaine (France). At the close of the discussion, 500 members journeyed to Aldershot, where they visited the R.A.M.C. Training Centre, the Cambridge Hospital, the Dental Clinic, the Army School of Hygiene, R.A.S.C. formations, as well as barracks and regimental institutes. After tea they witnessed on the Central Sports Grounds a gymnastic display by members of the Army School of Physical Training. On returning to London the delegates were guests at a conversazione at the Royal College of Physicians, and a reception at the Royal College of Surgeons. At the College of Physicians the guests were received in the library by Sir John Rose Bradford and Lady Bradford. The band of H.M. Welsh Guards played an attractive programme of music. At the Royal College of Surgeons Lord and Lady Moynihan welcomed the delegates. The Royal Artillery band rendered a selection of music during the evening. Sir Arthur Keith gave a most interesting and instructive lecture on "Design in Nature."

The whole of Wednesday, May 8, was devoted to a visit to Portsmouth, where the visitors were guests of the Lord Mayor and Corporation at the Guildhall, and of the officers at the Royal Naval Barracks. H.M.S. "Victory" and H.M.S. "Hood" were visited, as well as the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar, and the Submarine depot at Fort Blockhouse.

On Thursday morning, May 9, there was a discussion on tropical fevers of short duration. Lieutenant-Colonel W. P. Mac Arthur introduced the subject. A paper by M. Gerards (Dutch East Indies) was read giving a précis of the more important diseases of the group, including yellow fever, Weil's disease and dengue and its group of diseases. Short communications were made by M. Sacquepée and Cristao on tropical fevers on the Mediterranean littoral, by Colonel Cazanove on the fevers in the French colonies, and by M. Blanchard, who dealt with African epidemic icterogenic

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spirochætosis, a disease resembling yellow fever and Weil's disease. M. A. Cawadias spoke of the epidemic of dengue occurring in South Eastern Europe.

On Thursday afternoon, May 9, about 500 members visited the Halton Camp of the R.A.F. in Buckinghamshire and inspected the R.A.F. hospital and pathological laboratories and the medical training centres. Afterwards a demonstration was given at the aerodrome on the use of air-craft for carrying sick and wounded, and the transfer of stretcher cases from air-craft to ground motor ambulances.

On the evening of May 9 there were two receptions for the delegates. A large party attended a *conversazione* at the Royal Army Medical College, where they were welcomed by the Commandant, Colonel H. E. M. Douglas, V.C. Another party was entertained at the Wellcome Historical Museum, and was received by Dr. C. M. Wenyon, on behalf of Dr. H. S. Wellcome, who is abroad.

On Friday, May 10, "Injuries to Blood-vessels" was the subject of a joint paper by Surgeon Commander H. E. R. Stephens and Colonel G. De la Cour. A combined paper on this subject was presented by Major Médecin Voncken (Liège) and Médecin Commandant Maissonnet (Val de Grâce, Paris). A large number of speakers took part in the discussion and grateful acknowledgments were made to Sir George Makins for his contributions to the general knowledge of this subject during the war.

At the house of the British Dental Association a communication on the state of the teeth in relation to physical fitness in the different military services was made by Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander J. T. Wood, Captain S. H. Woods of the Army Dental Corps, and Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Colbran.

Captain Jesus M. Clark gave an account of the dental service in the Cuban Army which he said now possessed dental surgeries inferior to none.

At the Pharmaceutical Society there was a discussion on the physical and chemical analysis of glass and rubber articles used in the medical services. Surgeon Commander F. Lewis Smith and Mr. F. Hooper read paper a describing the available tests.

A paper on this subject was also presented by Farmaceutico Mayor Eleizegui (Spain).

Luncheons were given to the official delegates at the Apothecaries' Hall, to Pharmacists, other than British, by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and to Dental Surgeons, other than British, by the British Dental Association.

In the afternoon a lecture on evacuation of sick by air, illustrated by a cinematograph film, was given by Major-General F. Bauer (Sweden) at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington.

In the afternoon there was also a reception for the ladies attending the Congress at the Forum Club, Grosvenor Place.

The closing meeting of the Congress was held on Saturday morning,

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May 11, and the chief business was the reading in four languages—English, French, Italian and Spanish—of the week's discussions.

These were really summaries by the Committee of the Congress of the leading points which had emerged.

Colonel Van Baumberghen (Spain) reported on certain resolutions which were taken at the session of the Committee on Standardization of the International Red Cross at its meeting in July last. It was agreed on the motion of General Lanne and General Rouppert that the Secretary of the permanent committee of the Congress should be a liaison officer with the Red Cross Standardization Committee.

The chief social event of the Congress was the dinner, on Friday evening, May 11, given by the Corporation of the City of London to the delegates and members. In addition to the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commoners, the gathering included the Chief of the General Staff, the Presidents of the Colleges, Vice-Chancellors of Universities, representatives of Government Departments, Presidents of the Medical Societies and of the British Medical Association.

The President of the Royal College of Surgeons proposed the toast of the evening, "Success to the Congress." Lord Moynihan said it was right that medical men should have their day of celebration after a great war, as they of all men knew the cruelties of war, and—with more reason than most men—detested it in all its aspects.

The medical service could claim that they had returned to duty 80·7 per cent of wounded and 93·3 per cent of sick—or more than 16 armies, each of 288,000 men. In times of peace the medical services could also claim great services to humanity. In the story of malaria associated with the names of Laveran of France, Grassi of Italy and Ronald Ross, there was a triple entente engaged in another form of warfare against the enemies, not of one nation, but of mankind.

Lord Moynihan recalled with gratitude the work of Sir Almroth Wright on antityphoid inoculation. The work of Wright and Leishman had saved an army corps for the British Army in France. Lord Moynihan concluded his oration by saying: "Well, my Lord Mayor and brother officers, if there is any meaning behind life, if life is not merely a feast, or a spectacle, or a predicament, but is as I believe a sacrament, we must be sent into the world for the purpose of helping each other. It is because our profession in all its activities is founded on the law of love, love to one's fellows, love to mankind, expressing itself in service, that I ask you to drink to the success of the present Congress."

Three responses were made—in French by General Lanne, in Italian by General Riva and in English by Colonel Seaman of the United States, who took the place of Surgeon-General Cumming.

Sir Humphry Rolleston proposed the health of the Lord Mayor and the Corporation. Sir Kynaston Studd then replied and the proceedings terminated.

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