

treaties. Then Spain, France, Italy, and Norway with nine; Belgium, Denmark, and Sweden with eight; the United States of America with seven such treaties; and other nations with a smaller number. Various diagrams and "graphics" illustrate all these facts and they seem to point the moral and to explain the significance of the whole exhibition and such similar international efforts. Obviously exhibitions are a work of peace. Without peace, science, especially preventive medicine and sanitary science, would make but scant progress.

A few steps further and the very complete and well-arranged French drug section is reached to which a very brief allusion has been already made. Here many old and well-known friends meet the eye such as the papier Rigollot form of mustard poultice and the ever-popular Tamar Indien, the effective laxative that looks and tastes like a sweetmeat. The Clin laboratories were founded in 1864 by Dr. Clin who obtained the Prix Montyon. Here have been produced the fer Rabuteau and the bromide of camphor much used by Professor Charcot and Professor Bourneville. More recently, under the management of Messrs. F. Comar et Fils et Cie., some modern drugs have been put on the market and are now exhibited. There are, for instance, various cacodylates and metharsinates which permit the administration of large doses of arsenic; and the new salicylarsinate of mercury. Opposite this exhibit Messrs. Berlaut-Blancard Frères have specimens of catgut prepared according to the interesting method devised by M. J. Triollet and described in the annals of the Pasteur Institute. A catgut used for surgical purposes must be supple but if sterilised with dry heat it will be brittle. The catgut exhibited is rolled round a bobbin and placed in a receptacle containing acetone and sterilised at 120°C. for 40 minutes. When this is done the receptacle is not opened but simply turned upside down. A little sterilised water which had been placed inside the bobbin is spilt, and as it reaches the catgut only after the sterilisation is over helps to soften it without great injury to its qualities. The process is ingenious but difficult to explain in a few words. There are also in this section the exhibits from the works of Poulenc Frères that date back to a small drug store established in 1827. They now produce a great variety of chemicals used in pharmacy, science, photography, metallurgy, and also in the china, earthenware, and glass industries. Of special interest is the fact that they have been appointed the sole selling agents for the preparations of the Pasteur Institute at Lille. These consist of Dr. Calmette's anti-venom serum used in cases of snake bites and the powdered antitetanic serum for dressing wounds, together with the recently discovered tuberculin test for the ophthalmic-reaction of tuberculosis.

Of other French firms having their exhibits close at hand, we may mention Messrs. Roure-Bertrand Fils and other great distillers from Grasse who make extracts from flowers for the manufacture of scents. Then in a glass case there is a mysterious pile of small white paper tubes looking like a pyramid made with collapsed and half-empty cigarettes. These are cigarette papers but they contain and shield from the air and its microbes "Le Negri" sterilised toothpicks. As something toothsome there is to be seen just opposite the phosphatine Fallière, a food for young children and invalids, consisting of sterilised flour, with a slight addition of phosphates, and some finely flavoured chocolate. Boiled with milk we have here something that is really delicate and pleasant, while it is a useful food for the weak and the young.

In regard to nutritious substances that constitute at the same time an epicurean delicacy we have in the horticultural and gardening section a very graphic exhibit of those Parisian mushroom beds which produce the small, white, firm nut- or button-shaped mushroom without which a real chef would not deign to prepare a meal. Not only are the actual beds there with the mushrooms growing on them, but there are many photographs of those innumerable underground passages which honeycomb a great part of Paris. Here the beds are built up and here these gastronomic delicacies are grown and then exported to many foreign countries. The details in regard to a still greater delicacy are also given in this section and we see where and how truffles are grown. Photographs also are suspended to the wall of that modern Tantalus, the pig, which is ever digging the truffles out of the ground but is forced to drop them before it has time to enjoy a bite or two. There is a great

deal to be seen relating to technical instruction for the production of aliments, butter, cheese, fruits, and the preservation of fruits. Indeed, for food and for wines France has naturally much that must interest British subjects since we are the best customers of the French cultivator or vineyard proprietor.

## THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON TUBERCULOSIS AT WASHINGTON.

(FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

It will, perhaps, be useful to describe a little more in detail the way in which the subjects for discussion will be arranged in the seven sections which I enumerated last week.<sup>1</sup> The meetings may be the occasion of no such piquant episode as characterised the meeting in London when Professor Koch startled the medical world by his crisp statements as to the want of infectivity of the bovine tubercle bacillus for the human subject and the converse. It is evident, however, from the provisional programme which has reached us that in each of the seven sections questions of great scientific and practical interest will be brought forward. There will, of course, be some overlapping of the work of the different sections but the arrangements have been well thought out and the material at the disposal of the committee well organised.

As a kind of echo from the British Congress we have as the first item on the list of subjects for discussion Variations of the Tubercle Bacillus, especially as regards Virulence, a subject on which a good deal of information has been collected during the last few years, and we may anticipate a somewhat lively discussion if the "stalwarts" from different camps settle down to their work. Immunity in tuberculosis, mixed and concomitant infections, the pathological characters of congenital tuberculosis and of tuberculosis in infancy and childhood will all receive attention, whilst bearing on the question of the variations of the tubercle bacillus, the lesions, especially the primary lesions, produced by this organism are to be considered, as are also the sources and channels of infection, especially the lungs, whether from without or from surrounding organs and tissues. The work of Section II. is divided into three symposia: In the first the diagnosis and Treatment of Early Cases of Tuberculosis in which the use of x rays, the opsonic index, and the conjunctival and cutaneous tuberculin reactions will probably come in for special consideration. A number of other subjects, such as diet in pulmonary tuberculosis and the physiological effects of residence in high altitudes upon consumption, will also be discussed. In the second symposium tuberculin and its derivatives and the serum treatment are to be considered, whilst in the third sanatoriums, hospitals, dispensaries, and home treatment for tuberculosis are set down for discussion. For this part of the section a programme of most useful papers has been prepared and a good many of the State and municipal delegates will probably spend a considerable part of their time in following the discussion in this section, though the counter-attraction of some of the other sections will be very great.

In Section III., that of Surgery and Orthopædics, tubercle of every organ of the body is to be considered and the surgical treatment of tuberculosis and such questions as the Prevention, Diagnosis, and Surgical Treatment of Tuberculous Sinuses and Abscess Cavities; Acute Forms of Abdominal Tuberculosis; Indications for Operative Treatment for Bone Tuberculosis; and Wright Vaccination being representative headings of discussion in this section. In Section IV. we have a regular syllabus which reads almost like the contents page of a "work by many authors" on tuberculosis in children. The thing that will strike anyone on going over this syllabus is that three weeks, even if the discussion is continued the whole time, is a very short period in which to tackle such a large number of questions. The same remark applies to Section V., but it is seen in this case that the main questions to be tackled will form a very small portion of the official programme, as a good many of the points laid down are already accepted and will probably lead to a very little discussion, whilst on others very little information can possibly be forthcoming. At the same

<sup>1</sup> THE LANCET, Sept. 12th, p. 840.

time it is seen that much may be brought forward concerning the economic aspects of tuberculosis, adverse industrial conditions, the social control of tuberculosis, early recognition and prevention of the disease, after-care of arrested cases, educational methods and agencies, promotion of immunity, and responsibility of society for tuberculosis. Under this last heading we see there is to be a symposium of representative citizens, social workers, employers, employees, physicians, nurses, educators, and others. The provisional programme for Section VI., though set forth in comparatively few lines, promises to provide as much material for discussion as will any of the others, as here the Congress is invited to discuss "laws and ordinances relating to tuberculosis, especially with reference to infection"; "governmental care of tuberculosis patients in the home, dispensary, sanatoria, tuberculosis farms, camps, &c."; "educational propaganda and scientific research under governmental auspices"; "sanitary measures in the home including disinfection, better housing, ventilation, &c."; "sanitary surveillance over travellers and those engaged in trades and occupations in public buildings, factories, workshops, &c."; "prevention of tuberculosis amongst children and adolescents, including the subjects of heredity, environment, schools, factories, playgrounds, &c."; and "collection of statistics."

To Section VII. some 34 authors have already promised to contribute papers which will deal with the prevalence of tuberculosis among domestic animals, the roads of infection, diagnosis, and the question of resistance to tuberculosis, the methods for the control of tuberculosis in animals applicable in heavily infected herds and districts, and giving if possible the results of operations in different countries and in various states of the United States, the comparative bacteriology and pathology of tuberculosis in animals, the relation of tuberculosis in animals to the public health, including the evidence for and against the transmission of tuberculosis from animals to man, infection of man from animals by association, inoculation, feeding on meat and milk; milk hygiene and meat hygiene, in connexion with the latter the guiding principles and rules by which the meat inspector should be governed in adjudging the carcasses of animals infected with tuberculosis.

We have here food for many and interesting debates and from the distinguished men from various countries whose names appear on the list of those who have promised to attend and to take part in the discussions the outcome of this congress should be at least as suggestive as that of any previous congress and those who are attending as delegates from this country should have a profitable, though probably strenuous, three weeks of congress work.

The following names should be added to the list already announced of British delegates attending the International Congress on Tuberculosis at Washington, U.S.A.: Professor S. Delépine, Victoria University of Manchester; Mr. J. Patten Macdougall, C.B., Local Government Board of Scotland; Dr. A. Newsholme, Local Government Board of England; Professor William Osler, the University of Oxford, the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, and the King Edward VII. Sanatorium; Mr. T. J. Stafford, F.R.C.S. Irel., Local Government Board of Ireland; and Dr. H. E. Symes-Thompson, the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City-road, London, E.C.

## MANCHESTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

### *Asylum Accommodation.*

BOTH the Prestwich and the Chorlton unions are much inconvenienced by the crowded state of the Lancashire asylums. The former have charge just now of five certified lunatics for whom no accommodation can be found, and they have been obliged from time to time to send cases to Middlesbrough, where the charges are much higher than in Lancashire. Provision for increased accommodation is being made, but it seems to take a very long time, and one of the board expressed the opinion that if so disposed the asylum authorities could move much more quickly than they were doing. The Lancashire Asylums Board has decided to charge contributing Poor-law guardians 7*d.* a week more per head than hitherto for the maintenance of their lunatics,

and at a meeting of the Chorlton board it was stated that this will mean an addition of £1400 a year to the rates. Although this inconvenience is very real, it is, however, rather alarming to think of the very great extension of costly buildings that is being made for lunatics. At Whalley an asylum is being built to accommodate 2000 patients and an extension is proposed at Whittingham for 700 patients.

### *Seizure of Damaged Food.*

To show the valuable part played by the Manchester port sanitary authority in protecting the people from food unfit for use, it is only necessary to refer to the meeting that took place on Sept. 7th. The report stated that the amount of "foodstuffs" (not an agreeable term and one smacking of foreign origin) seized and condemned at the Foreign Animals' Wharf and the Docks during the last month amounted to nearly 270 tons. It must be said, however, that 264 tons consisted of damaged barley taken from a ship that had gone ashore. This barley was afterwards converted into food for cattle instead of malt for brewing. What effect it has had on the cattle has not been stated.

### *Overlying: Four in a Bed.*

An inquest was held at Colne yesterday touching the death of an infant three months old which shows some unusual features and undesirable overcrowding. The mother said that she was 19, and had had three children, the two still alive being aged three years and 18 months. The eldest child and its grandfather slept in the attic, the father and the second child at the bottom of a bed in another room, while the mother and the baby slept at the top of the same bed. She fed the child at 12.30, then slept till 7.45, when she was roused by the elder baby kissing the younger and noticed that the latter was cold, indeed dead. Dr. A. B. Ritchie, the police surgeon, who had made a post-mortem examination, said that the child had died from suffocation through being surrounded by blankets. The youth of the mother is noticeable. The father seems to have been in work as a fork finisher, so that there was no extreme poverty. The mother said that she was a teetotaler and that her husband was a steady man and had had no drink on the Saturday night. The coroner said it was to be hoped that the Government "would find time to get passed into law the Bill now before Parliament which made it an offence for a child to be found dead in bed with its parents." This hope will be echoed by those who know much of the large infant mortality due to the practice of parents having infants in bed with them.

### *Medical Bequests.*

Mrs. Jane Churton of Chester has left £2000 to the Royal Albert Asylum, Lancaster, and the same amount to the Chester General Infirmary, together with an additional sum of £2400 to the latter institution to endow two beds. She also left £1000 to the Children's Convalescent Home, West Kirby, and £500 to the Convalescent Home, Parkgate. Her medical attendant receives a legacy of £1000. There were many other bequests to charities, religious purposes, and legatees.

### *Sovereigns for Ashton Babies.*

Since Mr. Broadbent set the example at Huddersfield the rewarding (or the bribing) of mothers if they keep their babies alive over the first twelve months has been followed in some few cases. In Ashton-under-Lyne the mayor, Colonel J. W. Pollitt, offered to give £100 for distribution among the parents of children born after a certain date on such children attaining the age of one year, and the offer was accepted by the council. A conference has been held between the sanitary committee of the corporation and the Ladies' Health Society and it was decided to appoint another health visitor in order that the work might be properly carried out. The visitors are to report to, and to be under the control of, the medical officer of health, Dr. J. W. Talent, and he is to be required to attend the meetings of the Health Society. It is probable that these doles, coupled with the increase of sanitary effort on the part of the local authorities and supplemented by the self-denying help given by societies of benevolent ladies, will lead to the spread of knowledge among the mothers and, let us hope, to an increased sense of parental responsibility. It is, however, an uncomfortable reflection that a dole of £1 should in some cases be required to call forth the sense of responsibility and the affection which ought to be a natural instinct with human mothers.