

# TUBERCULOSIS.

## MEDICAL CONGRESS DISCUSSION.

### Pasteurisation of Milk Urged

#### NUTRITION ALLOWANCE.

ADELAIDE, Tuesday.

"Tuberculosis is the captain of the men of death," said the president (Sir Henry Newland) in opening the discussion on the disease at the first plenary session of the Australasian Medical Congress to-day.

On the motion of Dr. J. Newman Morris of Melbourne, the following resolutions were carried:—

"That, as the economic factor is of the utmost importance in the control of tuberculosis, and in order that the resistance of contacts may be improved and maintained, a system of allowances should be introduced by Governments which will enable the nutrition of families of tuberculosis patients to be adequately provided for."

"That, in view of the spread of tuberculosis through infected milk, and to safeguard the community from tuberculosis and also from infection from other diseases through the milk supply, all milk used for human consumption should be pasteurised."

Sir Henry Newland said that in South Australia deaths from tuberculosis during the last half-year were three times the aggregate of deaths from other infectious diseases. Apart from personal contact, the greatest single channel of tuberculosis infection was through infants and young children drinking milk from tubercular cows.

Some delegates attributed the apparent susceptibility of young women to the disease to an extent to the craze for slimming, and one speaker said his examination of young women school teachers had shown their weight to be 10lb below what was desirable.

#### DECLINING BIRTHRATE.

Professor Harvey Sutton (N.S.W.) said that the two most important steps for social progress were the resuscitation of family life and reconstruction of the home on one hand, and the development of mental hygiene on the other. Mental health should be based on the principle of interdependence of mind and body, including physical training, education for leisure, and the cultivation of character and personality, as well as intellect. Since the war there had been a veritable landslide in births, and if the present trend persisted the population would cease to increase about 1945.

Dr. Dale (Vic.) said that, given reasonable conditions, young men and women would find a home and have children to an increasing extent. That aim was becoming absent because of the aimlessness and frustration of modern civilisation. The insecurity of modern life was a reason why people did not have children.

#### MATERNAL MORBIDITY.

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Dr. P. Scholes (Vic.) said he was pessimistic about the whole thing, and could not see much for the future. The position was caused by economic stress and fear of the future. Too much money was spent on amusement.

In reply, Dr. Harvey Sutton deplored such pessimism, and said the insecurity of the present was grossly exaggerated. The calamity of losing 63,000 lives in the Great War was well known, but the loss of 250,000 lives since the war, because of fall in the birthrate, was not realised.

#### UNQUALIFIED PRACTITIONERS.

Speaking at the neurology and psychiatry section, the chairman (Dr. John K. Adey) said that one direction in which research would be profitable would be an inquiry into cures by unqualified people.

"The medical profession shuts its eyes to the fact that many unqualified practitioners get a certain number of results. It is useless for us to dismiss these with a wave of the hand and say they are charlatans and unworthy of a reputable practitioner. I do not suggest we should copy their methods, but if some methods of charlatanism had curative value they should be subjected to proper scientific investigation and their results used in a proper manner."

Dr. Adey said that efforts at passing legislation for compulsory sterilisation of the unfit were premature and unwarranted.