

Advance Notices, Alphabetical.

American Hospital Association, Detroit, September 24-27, inclusive, 1912.

American Medical Association Meeting, Atlantic City, N.J., June 3-8, inclusive, 1912.

American Nurses' Association, Chicago, June 5-7, inclusive, 1912.

American Water Works Association, Louisville, Kentucky, June 3-8, inclusive, 1912.

Congress of Mothers and Parent Teacher Organizations, St. Louis, March 20th to 26th, 1912.

National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, Eighth Annual Meeting,

Washington, D.C., May 30th to 31st, 1912. The general organization and the programme will be as follows: Clinical Section, Chairman, Dr. Chas. L. Miner, Ashville; Pathological Section, Chairman, Dr. William H. Park, New York; Sociological Section, Chairman, Mr. Frederick L. Hoffman, Newark. The Chairman of the Advisory Council for the annual meeting is Dr. Charles O. Probst, of Columbus, Ohio.

National Conference of Charities and Correction, Cleveland, Ohio, June 12-19, 1912.

National Education Association, Chicago, July 6-12, inclusive, 1912.

THE EMPIRE AND THE WORLD ABROAD

The British Medical Association and the National Insurance Act.

A special representative meeting of the British Medical Association, which sat recently at the London Guildhall to formulate the official attitude of the medical profession as represented by the British Medical Association towards the Insurance Act, rejected the "No-service-whatsoever" policy and decided to negotiate with the Commissioners.

The official statement, setting forth the decisions arrived at, gives promise of a satisfactory settlement when the whole matter comes to be discussed at the round-table conference which has now been agreed upon.

The medical representatives have taken the sensible course of availing themselves of the machinery which the Act provides to safeguard their interests. They have decided:

That nominations shall be made to the Advisory Committee which is to assist the Commissioners in drawing up the regulations.

That provisional medical committees (which will consist solely of doctors) shall be appointed in every insurance area.

The only difficult question now outstanding is that of remuneration. The Government actuaries estimated that the cost of medical benefit would be 6s. a year for each insured person. As the Act provides for the separation of drugs from medical attendance, it has been assumed that the capitation fee available for doctors would be about 4s. 6d. The medical representatives are now asking for 8s. 6d., and if this were conceded it would involve a charge

on public funds of nearly £3,000,000 a year.

New Programme v. The Six Points.—It is opportune to compare the old "six cardinal points" of the medical profession with their amended programme:

The Six Points.—1. £2 income limit for medical benefit. 2. Free choice of doctor. 3. Administration of medical benefit by Insurance Committees and not by approved societies. 4. Method of remuneration of medical practitioners in the district of each Insurance Committee should be determined in accordance with the wishes of the majority of medical practitioners in that district. 5. Adequate rate of remuneration. 6. Medical representation on the various bodies set up to administer the Act. Medical Committees.

The New Programme.—1. Recognition of a £2 maximum income limit. 2. (Secured under the Act). 3. (Secured under the Act). 4. Recognition of payment per attendance in certain cases. 5. Minimum capitation fee of 8s. 6d., not including extras and medicine. 6. (Secured under the Act). 7. (Secured under the Act). The power of considering all complaints against medical men be vested in the local medical committee, with the right of appeal to a Central Medical Board to be appointed for that purpose.

With regard to the question of remuneration, the official report of this meeting of the British Medical Association states that data derived from the various classes of practice were brought forward. In the committee stage a resolution embodying a rate of 10s. a head was carried, but on report this was modified, and the motion finally adopted was as follows: