EDITOR'S LETTER-BOX.

[Our Correspondents are reminded that prolixity is a great bar to publication, and that brevity of style and conciseness of statement greatly facilitate early insertion.]

THE NEW ADVANCE AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SCHOOL HYGIENE.

SIR,—As a slightly incorrect statement was published, it would be as well to explain in some detail the important new move in the matter of school hygiene which was taken at the closing meeting of the recent International Congress.

The permanent International Committee, consisting of about sixty members, selected from almost every country, has hitherto only met during Congresses. Arising out of the question of whether it would not be a proper thing to establish a bureau, with a permanent staff, library, and museum, and so on, in some central but neutral spot, such as a Swiss or Dutch town, it was decided, as explained by Drs. Mathieu, Burgerstein, and Kerr, that it would probably lead to greater progress if such bureau was not localised, but if each country had its own centre for the diffusion of knowledge, and to act as a clearing house in the matter of school hygiene statistics, laws, and regulations. Finally, to supervise in scientific matters, and generally to do all that is possible at all times or places to forward the human interests which are bound up in the special lines of knowledge included in school hygiene, the International Committee has formed a small Council.

This Council has all the powers of an ordinary committee. It can form sub-committees of experts on special inquiries. The usual committee procedure is to sit round a table and discuss matters, but this Council will deal with the various subjects that arise, submitting the different topics by correspondence, collating the answers, and finally making pronouncements in urgent matters after a meeting of the Council.

It is obvious that for efficiency such Council should be small, and yet have in it elements to secure permanence, and at the same time possibilities of slow but constant change. This has been done by deciding that it shall consist of the president of the past Congress, the president of the Congress which has just been held, and the president of the next Congress. Nine other members are to be elected, of whom three are to be from the country where the Congress was last held, and three from the country where it will be held next, three being selected from other lands.

Certain matters, for instance, will almost at once come under the consideration of this Council. Such might be quoted as:—

“The question of how medical inspection of schools can best be carried out with the maximum of efficiency and minimum of cost.”

“The question of how far the laws of health can best be imparted to the coming generation, so that later they will

know how to care for themselves and those dependent on them.”

“The best systems or methods of physical training for both sexes at various ages.”

“The feeding of children requiring proper nutrition, so that it shall be done without developing pauperism and with regard to those upon whom the cost falls.”

These four matters are being dealt with practically in a great variety of ways, and this Council should be able to collect and analyse known facts to show which methods are best for any town or State.

It is obvious that information thus digested will have a very great value politically as well as educationally, and this Council may in time come to be officially regarded as quite analogous in matters of school hygiene to that other Congress of Peace now in session at The Hague.

Yours faithfully,

LAUDER BRUNTON,

President.

JAMES KERR,

E. WHITE WALLIS,

Hon. General Secretaries.

General Practitioners' Contributions.

Important.

We propose to devote a special page to General Practitioners' Contributions. We therefore invite from practitioners contributions based upon their experience in the management of cases, and in the treatment and diagnosis of disease; especially shall we be prepared to welcome articles dealing, practically, with treatment, and with the use and value of new remedies and methods.

No article should exceed 1,100 words in length, and, if accepted, one guinea will be paid to the writer after publication. Each communication should be accompanied by a stamped directed envelope for the return of the MS. if found unsuitable.

The Relaxations of Medical Men.

We shall also be glad to pay for accepted contributions, from any member of the profession, on the subject of the relaxations of practitioners. This opens up a wide field, as it includes natural history, photography, sport, indoor recreations, and motoring. Whenever possible, original illustrations and photographs should be sent with the MS.

Suggestions Invited.

The Editor will welcome suggestions for the establishment of any new section in THE HOSPITAL, and will be glad to supply information on any subject of interest or importance to members of the profession in any part of the world.

Notices and Answers to Correspondence.

All MSS., letters, books for review, and other matters intended for the Editor, should be addressed to THE EDITOR, The Hospital Building, 28 and 29 Southampton Street, Strand, London, W.C.

THE HOSPITAL

August 24, 1907.

Name

Address

This Coupon must accompany manuscript or contributions intended for THE HOSPITAL.