

CONFERENCE ON PROBLEM OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

BY DR. BALFOUR.

The National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases has decided to organise an Imperial Social Hygiene Conference to be held at the British Empire Exhibition, Wembley, on October 5th, 6th and 7th of the present year.

It may be remembered that an Imperial Social Hygiene Congress was held at Wembley in May 1924 and was attended by many representatives of Government Departments and Local Bodies in the United Kingdom, of charitable and other organisations and of the Overseas Dominions including India. Those who were privileged to be present on that occasion will not soon forget the deeply interesting nature of the papers read and the discussions carried on. It was perhaps a drawback that in the few days at the disposal of the Congress a great variety of important subjects were touched on, of which time did not permit the full discussion. At the Conference which will be held during the coming October it has been decided to limit the discussion to Overseas problems and to take these up more in detail and more especially from the point of view of the expert. This will make the Conference all the more valuable for members of the medical profession who will have the opportunity of learning the views held, and weighing the experience gained in other parts of the Empire, while at the same time contributing such facts as India can bring to the common storehouse of knowledge. One day of the Conference will be devoted to a consideration of the medical aspects of Venereal Diseases and to the latest methods of diagnosis and treatment.

The widespread prevalence of Venereal Diseases and their serious consequences both to the individual and to the race has been recognised by most nations during the last twenty years. Energetic measures are being taken to combat them especially in Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom, and these measures are being attended by a gratifying amount of success. In India as many practitioners have testified, the diseases are also widespread, especially in the cities. Speaking at the Congress, Sir Gerald Giffard, as representing Madras, put the incidence of the diseases at 25 per cent. of the population, and other speakers placed it even higher. So far, no action has been taken in India to combat the scourge nor is there outside the medical profession any real knowledge of the seriousness of the situation and of the growing menace to the public health.

Those who are organising the Conference hope that many medical practitioners from India, and others whose experience fits them to speak with authority, will attend the meetings either as representatives of public bodies or as private individuals.

Copies of the Proceedings of the 1924 Congress, which gives a valuable synopsis of the recent advances in dealing with Venereal Diseases in all parts of the Empire (price 6s. 4d. post free) may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary of the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases, 102, Dean Street, Oxford Street, London, from whom also more detailed information regarding the coming Conference may be obtained.