

Notes & gleanings

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NOTES & GLEANINGS.

Public interest in the Spahlinger treatment for consumption continues unabated.

The Manchester "Sunday Chronicle" reports:

The Commission on the Spahlinger treatment of tuberculosis, which was inspired by the "Sunday Chronicle," has now returned from Switzerland, and the report of the distinguished medical men who took part in it may be expected shortly.

Meanwhile, in order to make their investigations as complete and comprehensive as possible they are anxious to get into touch with any of the 40 patients in this country who underwent the Spahlinger treatment in 1913 and 1914.

It is desirable in the public interest that the patients themselves or their friends should come forward and give whatever information they can supply on the effect of the treatment.

Letters, which will be treated in the fullest confidence, should be addressed to the Editor of the "Sunday Chronicle," 47, Shoe Lane, E.C.4.

* * *

The "Daily News" learns that a movement is on foot to interest British scientists and financiers in the Spahlinger treatment for consumption, regarding which remarkable claims were made a month or two ago.

In the meantime the promoters are awaiting the finding of an influential committee of medical men, who have been making an exhaustive investigation into the treatment. Should their report be favourable, the movement will aim at obtaining sufficient financial support to found an institution in England with Mr. Spahlinger at its head.

Dr. Leonard Williams, the Harley Street physician, who was the first to apply the Spahlinger methods in England, told a "Daily News" representative that unless such a step is taken England will probably lose the chance of obtaining the services of Mr. Spahlinger, who, he said, has already received tempting offers from America.

Dr. Williams added that 75 per cent. of the patients treated in this country in 1913-14 by the Spahlinger method had been traced, and they were all alive.

Unfortunately it was at present impossible for any physician to apply the Spahlinger treatment, because the supply of serum was exhausted, and no more could be procured for nine months or so.

* * *

To a question, put by Mr. Higham in the House of Commons on Monday last, Sir A. Mond, Minister of Health, said: The question of the merits of the Spahlinger treatment for consumption has been under consideration by the responsible medical authorities in this country since 1914; and during the last few months the Ministry of Health, following their usual practice of investigating the efficacy of all new methods of treatment for tuberculosis which are brought forward, have given further special attention to the matter at the particular request of M. Spahlinger. The difficulty in the case is that the serum itself and reliable details of the clinical evidence in support of its use are not forthcoming. An undertaking has, however, been given that when supplies of this serum become available for independent and scientific investigation in this country, the Ministry of Health will facilitate an exhaustive examination of its efficacy. I think it desirable to emphasize that in the opinion of my medical advisers there is not yet available a sufficient body of evidence to justify the claims made for this treatment.

It will be interesting to see what success is in store for the invasion of Switzerland by Messrs. Pickford's char-a-banc motor coaches, which are this month starting a series of twelve-day tours, visiting Berne, Lucerne, Engelberg, Interlaken, Grimmelalp, Château d'Oex, Montreux and Lausanne.

The chassis for these motor coaches are the product of the Saurer Works at Arbon, and trial runs, which have recently taken place in Surrey, are exhaustively described in "The Commercial Motor," whose technical expert reports in the following very favourable terms:

"The demonstration run took place on Tuesday of last week, and, after a tour via Epsom, Leatherhead, Box Hill, Dorking, Leith Hill, Abinger, Shere, Ripley, Wisley, etc., which totalled between 60 and 70 miles and included numerous stiff gradients, we have nothing but praise for the Saurer coach. The vehicle ran throughout the day without a hitch of any

description, and, in this connection, features which were particularly noticeable were the excellent springing, the engine's power of acceleration, and the ease of control. The manner in which the vehicle held the road at speed on some of the sharpest turns was almost uncanny.

"Messrs. Pickfords have undoubtedly pursued a wise policy in selecting a chassis of Swiss manufacture, which, from both the design and constructional points of view, ranks amongst the foremost commercial vehicle products of the world. Apart from the fact that they have chosen a vehicle of acknowledged merit, they are also right on the spot should any replacements or repairs be required."

We hope that this tribute to Swiss motor engineering will be fully realised and confirmed when the regular tours of the motor coaches are put into practice, bringing not only grist to the mill of Swiss tourist traffic, but also to the mill of Swiss industry.

The "Manchester Guardian" reports:

"The Spring Conference of the English Textile Institute will take place at Basle in Whitweek. On the 18th May papers will be read by Sir George Paish, on the financial situation, and Mr. W. Stauffacher, a Swiss representative, on the dye industry and its future, and on the 19th by Mr. John Crompton, on the structure of textile fabrics, and Mr. E. Tissot, a Swiss representative, on the industrial application of electricity. The programme also includes visits to factories, social and educational establishments, a garden party, and a dinner given by the Basle Chamber of Commerce. Over 120 members of the Institute propose to attend."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

"ECHO SUISSE / SCHWEIZER ECHO."

Monthly Review for the Swiss Abroad is the sub-title of this latest publication, of which a copy has just reached us.

The first section, in French, is edited by Eug. Monod, Vevey, and the second section, in German, by the publisher Edwin Furrer, Zurich, from whose introductory leaders we extract the following paragraphs for the purpose of conveying to our readers the ideals and objects which animate this new contemporary:

"L'Echo Suisse" donnera chaque mois de courts articles sur l'activité helvétique au pays et hors de nos frontières; il orientera les esprits sur les questions importantes en les résumant et en publiant à leur propos les opinions émises par les citoyens de bon sens.

Notre revue veut mériter doublement son titre: elle vous apportera l'écho de la vie en Suisse; elle veut aussi que le pays ait un écho de ce qui se passe chez ses enfants à l'étranger."

"Wir möchten unsern lieben Landsleuten draussen aber auch zeigen, wie sie ihre Liebe zum Vaterland diesem auch in der Ferne durch die Tat beweisen und der Zumutung genügen können: Pfleget und bauet das Vaterland!

Wir wollen aber auch zu Nutz und Frommen unserer Miteidgenossen im Auslande das für sie in der Heimat neu erwachte Interesse nähren und unterhalten . . . die ihnen zukommende Bedeutung für Volk und Vaterland betonen, und auf ihre billigen Forderungen um Unterstützung ihrer, auf die Pflege des Schweizertums im Auslande und auf des gemeinsamen Vaterlandes Wohlfahrt gerichteten Bestrebungen, eintreten."

The yearly subscription is fixed at 8 francs and should be addressed to the Verlag des "Schweizer Echo," Bahnhofplatz 2, Zurich.

WANTED, SWISS LADY or Gentleman willing to give Lessons in German in evenings; Lewisham district.—Write "Lessons," c/o. Swiss Observer, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C.4.