

add appreciably, not only to our knowledge of the Bible, but of the vital history of the various races which have from time to time occupied this central ground between East and West. Dr. Nies reports that the destruction of ancient remains of every kind is going on as it went on in Rome and in Greece centuries ago, before the value of historical material was understood. Ancient buildings are used as stone-quarries, temples are despoiled of curios of every kind, and one of the most interesting buildings has lately been torn down to furnish stone for a railway. At Jarash, for instance, two almost perfect Roman theaters, several temples, a forum surrounded by columns, and a triumphal arch are now being rapidly destroyed. The proposed fund of two hundred thousand dollars would discharge a very small part of our indebtedness to the ancient Jew, and would be a very small contribution to the possible enrichment of knowledge which is likely to come through a thorough archaeological examination of Palestine. Mr. Alexander Orr, of New York City, is the treasurer of the fund, and among the men who are interested in the enterprise are Presidents Low, Hadley, Faunce, Bishop Littlejohn, the Rev. Drs. Charles Cuthbert Hall, Lyman Abbott, Greer, Rainsford, Hillis, and Dix, together with Messrs. Abram S. Hewitt and Oscar S. Straus.

Charities and Correction Conference

ities and Correction, which closed its sessions in Washington last week, passed two resolutions other than those of thanks. That is not only a sign that this great Conference is flexible, but it is an even stronger indication that there is crying need of the reforms to which it thus addresses itself. The first was with reference to the collection of statistics concerning charity and correction in this country. The ultimate object is a National Bureau of Charity and Correction which shall correspond to the bureaus of labor and education, for the gathering together of reliable information and the distribution of the facts and figures thus obtained. Only those who try to collect such facts individually can realize what it means to have to apply to different authorities in

some forty-five States and Territories for material which should be garnered in a central granary in Washington. This has long been a project of the charity workers of the country, but heretofore there has seemed to be no room to slip in the thin edge of an entering wedge. It came this year in the offer of the Superintendent of the Census to make the collection of this information through a branch of his office. If this can be done, and by special provision be made permanent work, there is no reason why in time it should not expand into a most useful and valuable part of the service in Washington. At present there are not only no reliable statistics, but there are *no* statistics of the kind desired. With a central Federal bureau, every State and Territory would have its own bureau of information as to its institutions of charity and correction, which could not fail to be of aid to those engaged in the work connected with them. The other resolution passed by the Conference was an expression of the earnest hope that the new United States prison soon to be opened near Atlanta will be organized on reformatory principles, with warden and officers appointed solely with reference to fitness and character. This was passed unanimously by the whole Conference, not merely by the section on the treatment of the criminal. This section heard an admirable report by Mr. Charlton T. Lewis on the way in which the State ought to deal with crime. Among others who spoke at this section was Colonel MacHardie, Chairman of the Prison Commission of Scotland, who imparted some interesting facts about the advantage of a system quite divorced from political influence and under one head, uniform throughout the Kingdom—such a system as sooner or later must be adopted by each of our States if they are to reach the highest efficiency in prison work.

Features

The Conference this year was marked by the attendance of a larger number of representatives from other countries than ever before. Not only was Scotland represented, but Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Porto Rico, and Japan, while the Chinese Minister, on the closing evening, made a delightful address on the Golden Rule. Those who are still

laboring under the delusion that charity organization means perfunctory and machine-like benevolence, without the divine touch of personality, might have been undeceived had they attended the four sessions of the Conference devoted to the care of needy families in their homes, under the chairmanship of Miss Zilpha D. Smith. The terms charity organization, and associated charities were used incidentally, but the spirit of the work was so infinitely superior to the letter that the old terms were hardly needed. There has rarely been a better illustration of the endeavors of friendly visitors than in one of these section meetings, where men and women from half a dozen cities told in simple terms their every-day experiences among the poor. It was like a chapter out of the "Vicar of Wakefield"—the humor, the pathos, the unvarnished stories of success or failure. The tale of each was commonplace, homely in detail and unexciting in event, but to the initiated it was most helpful, as revealing the fact that all over the country in our great cities are these men and women who are bridging the differences between themselves and their less fortunate fellows with genuine and lasting friendship, which shows its true value by blessing him who gives as well as him who shares in this friendly relation.



The Tuberculosis Congress

The joint session of the American Congress of Tuberculosis and the Medico-Legal Society, which was held in New York City last week, brought out many interesting facts with regard to the results of investigation concerning the disease of consumption in its various forms, and developed a number of important suggestions. The general opinion among experts seems to be that the different States should establish sanitariums, and that every endeavor should be made to deal with tuberculosis in all its forms in its earliest stages, when the possibilities of cure are far greater than in the later stages. The ravages of the disease are so great that there is not only justification but necessity for action on the part of the State; and sufficient data have now been collected to make it possible for the State to act wisely and effectively. In this State alone

more than fourteen thousand persons die annually from pulmonary troubles, and, as a rule, these victims receive hospital treatment or public aid too late to be of any real service. So entirely is recovery from consumption dependent on conditions that the development of lung trouble on the part of a person without means is practically a premonition of death. It is absolutely essential that aid should be given in order to secure change of climate, the right sort of air, nourishing food, and freedom from work for a time. These conditions have been met by various private or semi-public sanitariums; but in order to check, and if possible to eradicate, this extremely fatal disease, concerted action on the part of the States will be necessary.



Epilepsy The first annual meeting of the Association for the Study of

Epilepsy (the Hon. William Pryor Letchworth; President) held its first annual meeting in Washington last week, with papers and reports on the subject from many States and foreign countries. Among the facts mentioned was one new to most of those present, that for more than a hundred and fifty years the marriage of epileptics has been forbidden in Sweden. This naturally leads the statistician to ask what the result has been, but he is doomed to disappointment, for there are no figures to tell him. It is hoped that the recent census of Sweden will reveal the desired information. If it can be proved that the prohibition of such marriages has lessened the per cent. of epileptics, as is believed, it will be a great spur to such States as are now considering legislation with reference to marriage. There seems to be no hesitation on the part of any one to say that the marriage of the feeble-minded should be forbidden, but there is still some difference of opinion as to the exact limits of epilepsy which demand such legislation.



Miss Woolley's Inauguration

The inauguration of Miss Mary Woolley as President of Mount Holyoke College on May 15 was a notable event in the history of that institution. The campus, looking its best on a perfect spring day,