

to affiliate the various centres, to consolidate them under one head, and finally to improve and extend the work of blind relief. So far much has been accomplished by what we may call private endeavour, but lack of funds is the main stumbling block. It is obvious that private enterprise and generosity cannot cope with these enormous figures; and that, in the absence of any philanthropist among the wealthy Hindus coming forward with a donation similar to that of Sir Ernest Cassell in Egypt, the bulk of the funds necessary should be found by Government.

The Hon. ophthalmic surgeons to the Association are Dr. B. P. Banaji, F.R.C.S.I., who has contributed occasionally to our columns, and Dr. B. H. Pesikaha.

The subject is one that might well be brought to the notice of the recently formed International Association for the Prevention of Blindness.

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### **The International Association for the Prevention of Blindness**

During the last few years the problem of the prevention of blindness has received widespread attention. Governments, municipal authorities and voluntary agencies have all initiated measures directed to this common goal. In this country Departmental Committees, after lengthy and searching enquiries, have issued reports and made recommendations to the authorities concerned, not wholly without success.

The Red Cross and other Societies in Europe, after a study by a provisional committee of the possibilities of international co-operation in the prevention of blindness, expressed the opinion that the time had arrived for definite movement of an international character towards this end. This Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies were joint conveners of a meeting held at Scheveningen, Holland, on the day following the termination of the International Ophthalmological Congress.

This meeting was attended by a large number of representatives of Red Cross Societies, Societies concerned with Public Hygiene, Infant Welfare, Prevention of Venereal Disease, Ophthalmology, etc. After a morning session at which the president of the meeting, General van Diehl, representative of the Red Cross Society of the Netherlands, addressed the meeting, and other representative speakers expressed their interest in the objects of the assembly, a resolution "declaring it highly desirable to establish a permanent international organisation for the prevention of blindness," and recommending the formation of an "International Association for the prevention of Blindness," was proposed and carried by acclamation.

At an afternoon session the proposed "statutes" of the newly

formed Association, comprising fifteen "articles" were brought forward and after being discussed and amended were adopted.

The officers of the Association are: President, Professor de Lapersonne, France; Vice President, Dr. Park Lewis, United States of America; Secretary-General, Dr. Humbert; Treasurer, Monsieur Demachy (Treasurer of the League of Red Cross Societies). An executive committee of 11 members, representing 11 nations was also elected. The British representative is Mr. A. B. Cridland, of Wolverhampton.

The unanimity and enthusiasm of the opening assembly augurs well for the future activity of the Association. It has a world-wide area in which to operate and its efforts to control the scourge of blindness will undoubtedly command the sympathetic interest and support of all nations.

For copies of this report of the meeting at Scheveningen, and of the constitution and byelaws of the Association, application should be made to the Secretary, 2 Avenue Velasquez, Paris.

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## ABSTRACTS

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### I.—DISEASE OF CONJUNCTIVA

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- (1) **Lindner, K. (Vienna).**—Is the bacterium granulosi (Noguchi) the causative organism of trachoma? (Ist das *Bacterium granulosi* (Noguchi) der Erreger des Trachoms?) *Arch. f. Ophthalm.*, Bd. CXXII, S. 391, 1929.

(1) An interesting feature of Noguchi's work on trachoma was the fact that neither in the patients from whom the inoculation material was taken, nor in the monkeys inoculated, could inclusion bodies be demonstrated. This raised the question whether the American-Indian trachoma on which Noguchi had been working was not a different affection from trachoma as seen elsewhere. It was on this account that preparations were made for Noguchi to investigate the disease in Egypt and Europe, when his untimely death interrupted these researches. Noguchi's collaborators, however, invited **Professor Lindner**, of Vienna, to proceed to the United States to examine the inoculated monkeys and to study American-Indian trachoma.

Lindner reports that the monkeys submitted to him showed not trachoma but typical follicular conjunctivitis. In all cases the conjunctiva itself was soft and transparent, with no trace of papillary hypertrophy or thickening. The follicles present were mainly at the fornices, but were also seen on the tarsal conjunctiva,