

traux," so that "nous devons abandonner les anciennes associations internationales, et en créer de nouvelles entre alliés avec le concours éventuel des neutres."

Whence this painful contrast? We should rather have expected the opposite, even without indulging illusions with regard to the progress of mankind during a hundred years. For there seems to be more room for generosity when the war's misery is past than when it is still raging; more too towards a defeated enemy than towards one who is still to be feared.

Summing up what precedes we ask you earnestly and urgently: Recover your former selves. Recover the high scientific point of view which, on his deathbed, made Ampère say to a fellow worker: "il ne doit être question entre nous que de ce qui est éternel!" Once more: we understand how your attention of late has been monopolized by what is temporal and transitory. But now, you more than all the others, are called upon to find again the way to what is eternal. You possess the inclination for objective thought, the wide range of vision, the discretion, the habit of self-criticism. Of you we had expected the first step for the restoration of lacerated Europe. We call on you for co-operation in order to prevent science from becoming divided, for the first time and for an indefinite period, into hostile political camps.

THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

We learn from *The British Medical Journal* that the headquarters of the League of Red Cross Societies, which was formed in Paris, on May 5, 1919, are at 9, Cour de St. Pierre, Geneva, and the work of organization is proceeding as rapidly as possible. The founder members of the League were the American, British, French, Italian and Japanese national Red Cross societies. The following national societies have since become members, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Denmark, Greece, Holland, India, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Rumania, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and Venezuela.

The third number of the *Bulletin* of the League gives a list of the officers and heads of departments who have already been appointed and have taken up their duties at headquarters. The director-general is Lieutenant-

General Sir David Henderson; the secretary-general is Professor William E. Rappard; the treasurer-general is M. André Pallain; the general medical director is Colonel Richard P. Strong, with Dr. Leonard Findley as director of the department of child welfare; the counsellor in international public health is Professor Rocco Santoliquido. In the departments of public health and hygiene bureaux will be organized to deal with the subjects of child welfare, tuberculosis, malaria, preventive medicine, venereal diseases and nursing.

An Inter-Allied Medical Commission was recently sent by the League at the request of the Polish government to investigate the pandemic of typhus fever in Poland. One of the gravest consequences of the devastation of Poland during the war has been the great decline in the sanitary condition of the Polish population, with a concurrent rise in the general mortality. The Inter-Allied Commission will report on the sanitary conditions in Poland, and will make recommendations as to the advisability of establishing sanitary cordons to suppress the spread of typhus into adjacent territories. When the commission has issued its report the League will be in a position to devise relief and preventive measures in the countries concerned, to propose to the Red Cross societies interested in the work an active sanitary campaign, and to urge the necessary measures that should be undertaken by the governments themselves. It is believed that the Polish pandemic of typhus originated in Russia and Ukrania.

The reports of the various sections of the medical conference held at Cannes in April last have now been published. They are printed in English, French, Italian and Spanish, and may be had on application to the Department of Information and Publication of the League.

THE TARIFF ON SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS

The *Journal* of the Washington Academy of Sciences states that the finance committee of the Senate, which has had before it the bill for a tariff on scientific supplies (H. R. 7785), decided on October 3 to postpone all