

not forget its own individual professional existence and its corporate interest in all things concerning itself alone. Undue tutelage carried too far will dwarf its development and stunt its growth. And it is our business to make sure that the training of the Nurses of the future is good and thorough—carried out on such lines as shall fit them for their work, not only in knowledge and skill, but shall discipline them in those principles of self-restraint, self-reliance, sympathy and obedience which are so necessary in our profession.

I look for a future great federation of Nurses, a trained and disciplined body of workers—loyal and true to their duty in the wards and sick-room—but loyal and true also to themselves and their comrades in their professional organisation.

### The Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association.

THIS Society exists for the purpose of aiding the wives and families of men of all branches of the Land and Sea Forces of the United Kingdom.

In the Report for 1895, a new departure is announced in the appointment of a paid Secretary and the establishment of an office at 23, Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster. The work is so important and so national that this has become necessary; the admirable work of this Association is spreading so much, and everywhere is highly appreciated. When not nursing the sick, the Nurses are enjoined to act more or less as "Health Sisters," in that they visit the wives and families of soldiers and sailors in their districts, and give general hints and advice on Health and Hygiene, which, coming from such known and tried friends as the Nurses, are appreciated and acted upon.

The Duchess of Connaught, who is the President of the Aldershot Branch, reports that the work of the district Nurses in Aldershot has been carried on during 1895 with most satisfactory results, the officers of the Army Medical Staff in the district, the civil practitioners in Aldershot and Farnborough, and the patients themselves, all bearing testimony to the great alleviation of suffering and discomfort which the skilled services of the Nurses have been instrumental in effecting.

An urgent application was made for a Nurse at Malta, and one was sent out and has been at work since May 1st.

There are Nursing Branches at Dover, at the Curragh Camp, and, by an arrangement with St. Patrick's Home, the families connected with the several barracks in Dublin are attended by Nurses belonging to the Home.

### The Jubilee of the "Red Cross" in Germany.

ON the 8th of May the Empress of Germany presided at a commemorative celebration of the activity of the "Red Cross" during the Franco-German war of 1870.

All Nursing orders from all provinces of Germany had sent representatives to honour this important jubilee, which was celebrated in the famous "White Hall" of the Imperial Palace in Berlin.

Half the hall was crowded with ladies, the other half represented the highest official dignitaries of the land, as well as the leading members of the court. Under a canopy on a throne stood the bust of the late Protectress of the Red Cross, Empress Augusta, a woman whose efforts for the furtherance of its cause have for ever rendered her name a glory of its annals. At the foot of the throne lay a floral cushion, showing the Red Cross arranged in flowers.

The present Empress of Germany with a suite appeared punctually. She was accompanied by the Grand Duchess of Baden, who had come to Berlin specially for the jubilee.

The first representative of the Central Committee of the Red Cross, Cabinet Counsellor Herr von Knesebeck, spoke for more than an hour of the organisation and work of Voluntary Nursing during the war of 1870-71.

He described the preparations made in times of peace, work on the battle field, arrangement of military Hospitals, transport of the sick and wounded; self-sacrificing activity at the stations, collection and distribution of gifts; in short he gave a summary of the entire range of Voluntary Nursing.

The quotation of facts and striking events gave colour to this eloquent and able discourse.

For the first time a reliable estimate was given of the amount of voluntary contributions during that short and terrible war. The result was 60,000,000 marks.

With deep feeling Herr von Knesebeck described the efforts of the late Empress Augusta to direct the wave of patriotic enthusiasm that inspired so many women of Germany to volunteer as Nurses at that time. To her powers of organisation, unwearying devotion to the cause, undaunted courage, the organisation of the Voluntary Nurses of the time owe an immense debt.

Herr von Knesebeck recalled the warm gratitude with which the Emperor William I. had publicly acknowledged the services of those who nursed the wounded; and at last the speaker earnestly reminded his hearers that success in emergency is *not* the result of sudden enthusiasm, but of careful preparation; that readiness in war-time means drilling in peace, organisation and patient, minute attention to detail in all and everything that appertains to the noble work of Nursing.

This powerful and energetic speech enthralled its hearers for more than an hour. It was followed by Mendelssohn's beautiful composition "Be thou faithful unto death." A grandson of the great composer, the banker, Robert von Mendelssohn, played the accompaniment on the violoncello, the words were sung by Raimund von Zurmühlen. The effect of the exquisite rendering of a lovely composition on an audience already predisposed to enthusiasm was overpowering.

Altogether the meeting was a success.

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