

The Danish National Council of Nurses.

THE following letter, received from Fru Charlotte Norrie, the able Corresponding Secretary of the Danish National Council of Women, and lately a delegate to our great Congress of Women, will arouse a deep sense of satisfaction and pleasure in the minds of the readers of this paper. Fru Norrie aroused so much interest in women's work in Denmark, and endeared herself to us so much, during her visit to London, that her prompt action in initiating a Danish National Council of Nurses is not at all surprising to those who watched her energy and devotion to the interests of her country during the Congress. She came instructed to enquire into nursing matters in England, and she certainly made the most of her opportunities. She accepted all the hospital hospitalities, and visited other hospitals, attended all the sessions of the Nursing Congress, took part in the discussions, dined with the Matrons' Council, was present at the Matrons' Council Conference, took part in the initial meeting of the International Council of Nurses, and made independent inquiries for herself into nursing politics, so that she most faithfully performed her duties as a delegate for the nurses.—

Copenhagen,
4th August, 1899.

MY DEAR MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK,—Now, I think it will be the best for me not to let one day more pass without expressing my great satisfaction of having met you at this very interesting and most successful Congress. If even I have not written before, I have not been idle; by this same post you will receive the first papers issued from the *Danish National Council of Nurses*, which was inaugurated a fortnight ago. As you probably have not studied Danish, during the last few weeks, I may give you a very short account of our Council. It is organised with the intention to join the Danish National Council of Women and the International Council of Nurses. The constitution will not be dealt with till after that of the International Council of Nurses has been dealt with. Only nurses with three years' hospital work may be members, but until October this year nurses with two years' training may be admitted on promising to enter a hospital for one year within some five years. Our present bye-laws are to be in force until New-year 1901. You would oblige me very much if you would send me some papers concerning the Registered Nurses' Society. I think we might have some-

thing like it here too. We feel that women are very much hampered in the discussions and in other aspects by their need of instruction how to manage affairs. So we have decided to have several committees for the several objects, and in this way to educate ourselves. It is very interesting to me to read in the *NURSING RECORD* the excellent report of the Nursing Section of the Congress. I hope soon to be able to tell you more about the progress of our Council of Nurses. Believe me, dear Mrs. Bedford Fenwick,

Yours, etc.,

CHARLOTTE NORRIE.

We beg to offer to Fru Norrie and her colleagues our warmest sympathy and good wishes for the success of the work which they have initiated in Denmark for the benefit of nurses and the sick. We still retain bright memories of the splendid corps of Danish nurses who were our companions on the steamer from Brindisi to Patras, summoned by order of the King, to Athens, to help to nurse the wounded Greek soldiers in that sorry war; we met some of them again on active duty, and were much impressed by their steadfast devotion to duty, and their quiet, disciplined methods of work. These are the type of nurses to utilise their National Council for good. Their English sisters send hearty and loving greetings to them.

“Satan in Petticoats.”

AN IMPERATIVE DEMAND FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF NURSES.

A SUPERINTENDENT of Private Nurses remarked to us, the other day, “I am really sorry for private nurses now-a-days, they are met with such an attitude of suspicion upon the part of many of the public, and have to live down so much prejudice before they get a fair chance.”

THIS attitude of suspicion upon the part of the public has been caused by a combination of circumstances. Firstly, let us always take our fair share of blame before blaming others. Is it not true that numbers of ill-educated, ill-trained women have rushed into private nursing of late years, because it is a remunerative branch of the profession, and is it not true that the lack of real culture and knowledge of social conveniences upon the part of these women have done much to prejudice people against so-called trained nurses? In our opinion, a woman, to be fit for private nursing, where she must be self-dependent and very prudent, requires not only a

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