

the Free Sisterhood movement. The nursing profession was not, and must not be, a business to get money by. She maintained that nurses should be women who dedicated themselves to the service of humanity from a sincere love of their kind. Only an organised sisterhood could give a nurse the standing which she needed; she could never attain it in a society founded on a pecuniary basis. The speaker said that she herself had the pleasure of holding the position of President of an organised Red Cross Sisterhood. The nurses had constant practice in hospital work, and were also educated to enjoy what was good and beautiful. Her whole effort was not only to perfect the nurses practically but spiritually. Old-age pensions and invalid insurance were also arranged for them.

Professor ZIMMER strenuously advocated the right of the Free Sisters to organise on professional lines outside Religious Sisterhoods, and

Dr. ISRAEL, in an able and liberal-minded speech, said it was absurd that nurses, if they wished to do so, should not be allowed to take their own fees, and determine their own conditions of labour. He strongly supported the Free Sisterhood movement.

Frau SCHOMAN CASSEL argued that, as no instruction in nursing methods could be final, a training of six months was quite sufficient in which to learn general principles.

Miss ISLA STEWART, Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and President of the Matrons' Council, Great Britain, said that she thought the right of nurses to absolute freedom, after their training was complete, to take up any branch of work which they desired, and to determine the conditions under which they would work, were points which could not be too strongly insisted upon. It was because these conditions were prevalent in the United States that nurses there had gone ahead. In England also, when certificated nurses associated themselves together outside their schools, they speedily made a standard for themselves. The ultimate result of this would be the definition of a minimum standard of nursing education by State authority and the registration of those who attained it.

The members of the Congress then dispersed, the general opinion expressed being that the Nursing Session had proved most interesting and instructive.

LUNCH.

At the close of the Session a delightful little *impromptu* lunch took place at the suggestion of Fraulein Karll, the President of the German Nurses' Association. About twenty-six members sat down with Dr. Zimmer (a pastor with advanced views concerning nurses), also Frau Krukenberg, who is the widow of a doctor, and much interested in the nursing organisation. Four nations were represented—England, America, Germany, and Sweden; for three nurses from Sweden, inspired by what they had read in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, had come to hear all about the progress of nurses in other lands.

Such meetings must necessarily help to draw us closer in the bonds of friendship, for as we get to know each other better, so we shall learn to help each other more, and what can do that so well or so naturally as these informal meetings, where there is no fear of President's bell or duty hours? After lunch several snapshots were taken by an enterprising nurse, and then those present separated to go to the many receptions arranged for their enjoyment by the hospitable people of Berlin.

PAPERS OF INTEREST TO NURSES.

Other papers of considerable nursing interest in the Congress were those read in the Social Section (1) by Frau Hertha v. Sprung, describing the nursing of the sick poor in Austria. The speaker showed how in some districts organisation was on modern lines, while to others this term could not be applied. There is for the most part an absence of centralisation, and the bureaucratic spirit of the Poor Law officials does not further its promotion.

Various religious bodies in Austria carry on important work. The Jews are especially active in Galicia, and Roman Catholics throughout the Empire. Catholic Orders and Congregations are very important factors in the nursing of the sick, but apparently the care exhibited for the health of the sick members of the community is not extended to those who nurse them. It is said that over-work is the cause of the early death of many valuable workers. Up to the age of thirty the average death-rate of these devoted Sisters is 50 per cent. Tuberculosis is the cause of no less than 75 per cent. of the deaths. It is appalling to learn that the average age of these nuns does not exceed thirty-six years.

Time failed the speaker to tell of all she would have liked to say on convalescent homes for children on the beautiful slopes of the Wiener Wald; of public kitchens, considered unequalled in excellence; of various grand charitable institutions in process of erection; of asylums for the insane for 1,000, and an almshouse for 4,000 people, a perfect town amidst most charming scenery; of an educational institution for 1,000 weak-minded children; and much more that gives good promise for the future.

(2) Frau Alice Bensheimer read a most excellent paper on the organisation of the Baden women's associations for the relief of the poor, which fall into four groups:—

1. The advancement of education and business capacity of women.
2. The care of children in relation to health and education.
3. The nursing of the sick.
4. Active benevolence, and the nursing of the poor.

These are in touch with one another through a central organisation under the presidency of the Grand Duchess. There is consequently no overlapping, and help can be afforded by one association to another in times of special stress. We hope to refer again to these papers.

THE CLOSE OF THE CONGRESS.

The Congress closed on Saturday afternoon, when the principles and objects of the Woman's Movement were ably summed up by Frau Marie Stritt, Mrs. Perkins Gilman, and Fraulein Helene Lange.

The last words were spoken by Town Councillor Münsterberg. He remarked that all the speakers had emphasised the effect that the Congress

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