

France, but in Madagascar, Cape Town, Bolivia, and elsewhere. It will never, said Mme. Kreigk, lose courage or hope. It believes, with Fraulein Karll, "The future is ours."

INTERNATIONAL RECIPROCIITY.

In this third and last section an interesting paper was presented on

THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NURSES IN A FOREIGN LAND.

By MISS VAN VOLLENHOVEN.

Miss Van Vollenhoven, a Dutch Nurse who has worked in the United States of America, and is a registered nurse, emphasised the importance of registration which she said, both as to professional standing, and also financially, was of great advantage. She described her work amongst Russian and Polish Jews in the poor quarter of New York, in a hospital in Paterson, New Jersey, and in other professional positions. She had never, she said, regretted going to America for the work there is excellent, and those who persevere are assured of success.

Discussion.

OPENED BY MISS ELSTON,

Matron of Tondou Hospital, Bordeaux.

Miss Elston gave a very interesting account of her experience in France. She spoke about the difficulty of language, of the difference of customs and habits, all of which she learnt by painful experience. Then, in hospitals, there arose the difficulty with the patients, the difficulty with the doctors, who in some parts of France did not understand what nursing meant, even to the giving of simple baths for cleanliness and hygiene. They did not as a rule like lay nurses. Nuns have all the traditions of the country. Lay nurses have no traditions at all. All these difficulties had to be overcome. She then referred to her experience at St. André, the big civil hospital at Bordeaux, which is in the hands of the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul, where Dr. Lande had tried to form a training school, and which, having proved impracticable, was transferred to the Tondou Hospital, containing 120 beds, which had proved a great success. With regard to the French pupils, she said that they were quite capable of being just as good nurses as English ones. That they were quicker and more intelligent than English nurses; that they were full of ideas, and took interest in all the current topics and politics of their country and in the technical instruction they received to an extent which was sometimes subversive of discipline. A new probationer not only wanted to know the why and wherefore of everything, but frequently suggested alterations which, much to the Matron's discomfort, were sometimes worthy of notice.

That there was a feeling against the employment of foreigners was unquestionable, but she had proved that the French made true, good, and firm friends, when they felt that their good was one's only object.

A VOTE OF THANKS.

Miss Isla Stewart then called on Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Founder of the International Council of Nurses, to propose a vote of thanks.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said that she was sure the Conference would not wish to separate without recording its most grateful and hearty thanks for the charming and delightful welcome it had received from their friends in the beautiful capital of France.

She mentioned especially the Municipal Council of Paris, which had entertained the Conference at the Hotel de Ville; the Hon. President, M. Léon Bourgeois, who regretted that an equally important mission at the Hague had prevented his presence at the Conference; the Assistance Publique and its most able Director, M. G. Mesureur, President of the Conference; the Hon. Vice-Presidents, M. Mirman, M. Navarre, M. N. P. Strauss, M. Felix Voisin, Dr. Lande, and Dr. Anna Hamilton, the Council of the Musée Social, which had so generously placed the Hall in which the Conference had been held at the disposal of the International Council of Nurses; M. Montreuil, Director of the Salpêtrière; the Hostesses, the Baronne James de Rothschild, and Mme. Alphen Salvador (who also were Hon. Vice-Presidents of the Conference); Mme. Gillot, Mrs. Edmond Kelly, Mlle. Chaptal, and other kind friends. Had they not co-operated with the officers of the International Council of Nurses it would have been impossible for the Conference to have been such a magnificent international success.

Mrs. Fenwick proposed that the sincere appreciation of the members of the Conference be officially conveyed to all who had welcomed them at Paris.

Mrs. Hampton Robb, delegate of the National Associated Alumnae of the United States, seconded this cordial vote of thanks in its name.

Miss M. A. Nutting, delegate of the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools, and President of the American Federation of Nurses, said it was rather late to give the affectionate greetings of these two Societies which she represented, but in their name, the name of all American nurses not already represented by Mrs. Robb, she supported the resolution before the meeting. The impetus, the inspiration, the delight, and the success of the Conference could never be conveyed in any report.

Fraulein Karll, President of the German Nurses' Association, supported the resolution in the name of German Nurses.

Dr. Anna Hamilton, Hon. Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses for France, in the name of French nurses thanked M. Mesureur, the Director of the Assistance Publique in Paris, President of the Conference, and the Municipal Council of Paris, for the reception accorded to the Conference, the Council of the Musée Social for kindly lending its Hall, and Mme. Alphen Salvador, and Mlle. Chaptal, who had so courteously re-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)