

Association for Training Secular Catholic Nurses in Berlin,

THE RED CROSS.

A very complete and interesting section was that contributed by the Red Cross Society, showing how many things ready to hand can be used in emergency in extemporising necessary appliances. Examples of this were to be found in the stretchers often improvised with rough wood for the frame, the stretcher itself being made of such materials as list, plaited straw, tape, string and wool, faggots, wire netting, brush wood, and the tops of fish baskets. Fish spears in one instance were used for the frame work, with fish netting strained across to form the stretcher; in another instance a ladder was indicated as providing a usable expedient.

Trucks were converted into field ambulance waggons and boats were fitted for the same purpose. An improvised gangway was also shown. Altogether the section afforded an admirable demonstration both of the work of the German Red Cross Society, and of methods of extemporizing articles required in case of need.

Those who attended the Exhibition will be glad to know that it was a financial as well as a professional success.

A QUEEN'S INTEREST.

It will be remembered that Queen Sophia of Sweden took a deep interest in the London Congress, and at her express desire Miss Emmy Lindhagen, on her return to Stockholm from Cologne, attended before Her Majesty to give her an account of the proceedings at Cologne, in all of which the Queen expressed great interest.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE CONGRESS.

You ask me for my impressions of the Congress. I gladly send you a few lines, though I am sorry that, owing to the pressure of official duties, I was unable to attend as many of the sessions as I should like to have done. I can say, however, that from the proceedings at which I could be present, and from what I saw and heard there of the members of the Congress, both from home and abroad, the way in which the programme was carried out, and the personalities of those conducting the meetings, I received a very strong impression that able and energetic women have applied themselves to the task of solving the difficult problems that are related to their chosen work.

I saw that notable achievements in nursing education and in organisation are being pushed forward by your leaders, and I am fully convinced that the excellent service of Free Sisters, well taught and well trained, merits its full reward.

Should, your members, succeed in amending the untoward circumstances now existing in nursing, and mitigate that overburdening, which now shortens the working term of the Sister's life, they will help, not only nurses, but also the community, by preserving in vigour many a useful life that is now prematurely shorn of its strength and efficiency.

From Geheimrat DR. RUHSACK.

I had only one grand impression of the International Congress of Nurses, and that was its wonderful *UNITY*, which denotes strength—both strength of will and strength of purpose.

It was so marvellous that representative nurses from so many different countries should meet together for one aim and purpose, and that that grand purpose was to convey to their colleagues of different creeds and languages, as well as workers under different conditions, the best and latest methods of each nation for caring and tending our sick and suffering, as well as helping to better the conditions of the nurses themselves.

The enthusiasm of the whole week was very fine and the organisation was carried out in a most masterly and efficient way by our German sisters with much spirit and enterprise.

It was a week that will never be forgotten by those present, and one only regrets that owing to duty so many were unable to enjoy and benefit by the advantages those present obtained.

I shall live on the memory of it till our next meeting in San Francisco.

B. CUTLER.

My impressions of the strenuous week of the Nurses' Congress at Cologne were so many, that it is difficult to state them shortly, but they may be crystallized in Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's exclamation during her speech at the banquet on Wednesday evening: "*In nursing there is no nationality*"; it was what I had been longing to say myself all the week.

Differences of race, of speech, of country, all seemed small before the uniting tie of one womanhood, one earnest work for the same object—the cure, and also the prevention of sickness of both body and mind.

How fitting it was that so great a gathering should resolve on erecting an educational memorial to Florence Nightingale. May the watchword of the Congress, given us by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick—"Aspiration"—receive a definite form in this remembrance when Congress meets again.

H. L. PEARSE.

THE mountain fastnesses of Switzerland, with its wealth and magnificence of landscape, are a suitable environment wherein to sift one's thoughts and select impressions from a surging crowd of them.

The "still small voices" of Nature, the music of the spheres, are a great aid to clear thinking.

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