

NURSING TO BE A PROFESSION IN FRANCE.

The announcement that a decree has been promulgated by the Ministry of Hygiene in France providing that in future the profession of nursing may be practised only by those who have undergone a course of training laid down by the Ministry and received in approved schools attached to public hospitals, is one of the utmost importance.

The decree, which provides further that candidates for the diploma will be examined by Boards appointed by the Ministry, in places which have a Faculty of Medicine, has been signed by the President.

It is now fifteen years ago since the International Council of Nurses held a Conference in Paris, and we may hope that it is one of the influences which induced M. Strauss, the present Minister of Hygiene, to arrive at this decision by demonstrating the organisation of nursing in other countries.

M. N. P. Strauss, then President of the Conseil Supérieur de l'Assistance Publique, accepted the position of Hon. Vice-President of the Conference, and was present at its opening Session. No one who attended that wonderful Conference, and realised the deep interest taken in its proceedings by those holding high positions in the Assistance Publique, can doubt that seeds then sown were bound to bear fruit.

Then, in 1914, the Great War, which had lessons for the nurses of all nations, held amongst them a lesson for France, and M. Strauss, Minister of Hygiene, states that the war demonstrated the national importance of an efficient Nursing Service. Hastily trained volunteers did splendid work, but France should be guarded against the need for such improvisation in future. He also points out that the field of nurses' activity has been much extended by the modern application of social hygiene—including the campaign against tuberculosis and child welfare work.

We have also to remember the practical Demonstrations of nursing given during the war by the corps of British Nurses—the French Flag Nursing Corps—of which we had the honour to be Honorary Superintendent, which worked directly under the French War Office, and the work of British and American Nurses in the Devastated Regions, all of which, no doubt, were factors in bringing before a Nation, sensitive to impressions, and quick to absorb and apply knowledge, the need for organising its Nursing Service in accordance with the latest modern methods.

The fine buildings of the Nurse Training School at the Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris, form an ideal Home for such a School, and other hospitals might organise on the same lines.

We understand also that a Nurse Training School is to be organised in Paris by the Comité American pour les Régions Dévastées—another centre of light and learning.

Nor must we forget the Nursing School organised by Dr. Anna Hamilton at Bordeaux, which has trained so many young Frenchwomen to a high degree of technical efficiency, and imbued them with professional ideals.

Frenchwomen possess qualities which should place them in the very front rank as nurses when once their curriculum is organised. But to be really efficient, trained nurses, possessing adequate powers, must be in command as the heads of the Nursing Departments of the hospitals. That is the secret of efficiency in nursing organisation.

THE INTERNATIONAL COURSE OF TRAINING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES.

On Thursday, July 6th, Bedford College (University of London), Regent's Park, was *en fête* for the coming of H.R.H. Princess Christian to present certificates to the students of the Class 1921-1922, who had completed the International Course of Training for Public Health Nurses organised under the League of Red Cross Societies.

SIR ARTHUR STANLEY (Member of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies) in welcoming the Princess said that when the League of Red Cross Societies was founded it decided that, of all things in connection with its aims, the most necessary was a greater knowledge of the art of nursing in those countries where it was practically non-existent. It was therefore decided to found an International Course of Training for Public Health Nurses, and England was selected as the country in which it should be carried out. The present was the second course. The first year the course was taken by 18 students from 17 countries, this year there were 12 students from 12 countries. He hoped they would all take away as good an impression of England as we had formed of them.

The students who received their certificates for the present course would realize that they could not have any greater honour than to receive them from Her Royal Highness. All present knew what she had done in the cause of nursing. To tell the history of nursing was to tell Her Royal Highness' part in promoting the interests of nurses, more particularly through the Royal British Nurses' Association, of which she had been President since its foundation. In the name of the students

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