

and wrote the whole night, for the articles were to be printed the next day. I began to seek faults and also found them—in myself. I could not understand that it was not for me, as editor of a nurses' journal, to sit behind my desk and wait, which is all very well for the editor of a daily paper. No, I had to go and visit people, to give them new thoughts and inspiration, and notice in what they were interested. And then I again learned that great secret of work! To work *with* people, not *for* people. The more personal the contact between the reader and the editors, the more useful becomes the paper. And when the paper is useful, then it becomes attractive and more intimate to its readers. It is natural that, as regards a pleasing appearance of the paper, an artist's eye helps very much.

Although this is a splendid opportunity to lecture my readers, I will not do it, but neither will I admit, as one hears so very often, that the entire fault of a paper not being useful and attractive lies with the editors. No, let us divide the blame evenly and then let us all do our best.

ROUND TABLES.

THE POSITION OF THE MATRON OR SUPERINTENDENT OF NURSES.

On Wednesday morning, July 22nd, the first of the Round Table Conferences were held. Miss Alice Reeves, R.G.N., R.R.C., President of the National Council of Trained Nurses of the Irish Free State, presided at the discussion on "The Position of the Matron or Superintendent of Nurses." The speakers were Miss Fairley, Matron of the General Hospital, London, Ontario, who spoke of the relationship of the Matron to the Hospital and other departments. Miss Helen Young, of U.S.A., described the position of the Superintendent of Nurses in the Hospital. Miss Musson, late Matron of Birmingham General Hospital, spoke on: 1. The Matron's position in relation to the Civic Authorities with regard to the health of the public. 2. Her position in relation to the Board of Management, which should be that of a trusted servant being in direct contact with her Board. 3. Her position with regard to the Medical Staff, which was that of a trusted colleague and not a servant. 4. Her position with regard to the Nursing Staff should be to see that every member of it gets every opportunity of acquiring knowledge both theoretical and practical to fit her for the work. The Matron should be the supreme authority. 5. Her position with the domestic staff should be to see that the work of cleaning, &c., is properly carried out. Men servants are generally under lay control and this is where friction may often occur. 6. Lastly, her position with the patients. Her influence on the Nursing Staff shows itself in the way the patients are cared for.

Mademoiselle de Joannis, Paris, spoke on the Schools of Paris, and said that some schools gave a very good teaching in theory, but practical training was difficult to obtain. Miss Alexander, Hon. Secretary of the Trained Nurses' Association of South Africa, spoke of the Matron's part with regard to the education of Nurses, and stressed the point that teachers required special qualifications not alone for theoretical teaching but for the practical work, and that it was much more suitable for the teaching to be done by a nurse than by a medical man.

Miss Huxley said that the Matron should set the ideals for the whole of the staff. The Continental and American system appeared to be different from the system which prevailed in the Irish Free State. In America, Canada and on the Continent there was generally a Director who might not be a medical man, he appeared to be a supreme authority.

It was generally agreed that the Matron should be the supreme authority on nursing matters.

A BOAT RIDE.

One of the many happy suggestions on the part of the Committee of Arrangements was the placing of a light blue invitation card (true Cambridge blue, an additional attraction to those of us with old associations of the English Universities Boat Race) in the green portfolio which contained the programme of the Congress and a small sheaf of additional attractive invitations for each member according to her specialised branch of work. Conspicuous among the white papers lay the blue invitation to join a Boat Ride on the morning of July 25th, giving promise of a most interesting and refreshing experience after a truly full week of Sessions and Round Tables.

We left from the South Harbour in a good size steamer. No sooner had we got the pleasing outline of Helsingfors in perspective than sounds of lovely part-singing wafted across the boat from the choir of Finnish Nurses. We can never express our fullest thanks to these Nurses for initiating us into the beautiful folklore songs of their country on this and so many other unforgettable occasions.

At every attractive edge to an Island the healthy sport of good swimming and diving seemed wisely sought for by this Northern Race on the days of their short but lovely summer.

After passing numerous small islands each with its own typical characteristic, one with a yacht club, another with a Zoo, yet another with an effective and gracefully built lighthouse, we reached our destination, the Island of Suomenlinna, which in times passed, under the name of Sceaorg, was considered an impregnable fortress and teems with the history of this buffer country between two great powers, Sweden and Russia. How magnificently Finland has proven the infallible truth of the futility of attempting to suppress a nation in their own land, surrounded and imbued with their own age-long history. That day saw landed on the Island the women of 33 countries of the world, in complete accord because "nursing has no nationality" as the Founder of the International Council reminded us in her message to the Congress. Inland we found tables temptingly arranged with refreshments. A military band entertained us with excellent music, and at intervals the sweet singing of the choir of Nurses. Such opportunities gave us chances of good talks and exchange of ideas, with that charming habit, for which thanks are due to the States, the exchange of visiting cards.

After a stroll round an interesting cavern which appeared to be in the early stages of creating stalactite we saw a picturesque Portcullis cut in the rock leading from some gracefully carved steps down to the water. While we waited for the steamer to swing into position the indefatigable band kept us well entertained to the last moment, charmingly paying us the compliment of playing the National Anthems of many of the countries represented, the words being caught up by all who knew them. The old fortress became an International stronghold of goodwill. A good omen! We must see to its being fulfilled.

GLADYS LE GEYT.

THE NORTHERN MUSEUM.

The Northern Museum—one of the finest buildings in Stockholm—is said to be an almost unique Institution, by its exhibits showing the progress of civilization in Sweden. Connecting it by a bridge, is the island of Djurgarden, the home of the Skansen, the open-air museum. This is a branch of the Northern Museum, similar to that of Fölisön at Helsingfors, but probably smaller. It is no doubt of great educational value, especially to students of history.

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