



Our Letter from Holland.

IN our country it is hailed as a happy token of the times that we may rejoice in the sympathy of our English sisters, who show a most flattering interest in all that happens in our Dutch nursing-world. That the bonds of common aims and aspirations, and the same love for all who are sick and suffering, may tie us more and more, is our sincere wish. Of that sympathy we have received lately a new and unmistakable proof. The "Council of Matrons" has conferred the honorary membership upon Miss T. P. Reynvaan, the Lady-Superintendent of the Wilhelmina Hospital, who has most graciously accepted it. I ought to have mentioned this glad news at the end of this letter, according to the old philosophical rule, that the best must be spared to the last, but as I have the privilege of being personally acquainted with the lady who has received this highly-deserved distinction, I feel happy in being able to inform the readers of the NURSING RECORD of the honour that has befallen one of the most prominent figures in the sphere of nursing.

When speaking of the Wilhelmina Hospital, I will not leave untold the fact, that the Queen-Regent, during her sojourn in Amsterdam, has paid a visit to that institution, and with unconcealed contentment inspected the different wards. Her Majesty had brought with her a large number of flowers, which she distributed amongst the sick, who greatly enjoyed this delicate gift—in this case twice as dear, because it came from the hands of the most illustrious woman in the kingdom. For several of the patients, who with half curious, half timid eyes, looked at their royal visitor, she had a kind word, a cheering remark. It always makes an elevating impression, when a queen, mindful of the well-known saying, *noblesse oblige*, gives an example of true womanly tact, and a genuine fellow-feeling for those who are wanting so much that other more happy creatures enjoy largely—the blessing of wealth and health.

A considerable change has taken place in the *Binnen-Gasthuis* (the Inner Hospital) the other of the two municipal hospitals. Miss Cort van der Linden, who has for about eight years performed there the duties of Lady-Superintendent with much zeal and devotion—surely not an easy task in so large an establishment—has asked and got her honourable release of that function. After having received her first training in the Municipal Hospital in The Hague, she was incorporated to the nursing staff of the *Binnen-Gasthuis* at Amsterdam. Not long afterwards she was promoted to head-nurse. In order to extend her knowledge, and to enlarge her experience, she went to London, where she was for some time working as probationer in St. Bartholomew's Hospital. She returned to her native land, and was soon appointed

as Matron in the same Institution, where she had already given so many proofs of her nursing accomplishments. Her successor as Lady-Superintendent is Miss Ulfers, lately active as head Nurse in the Wilhelmina Hospital, after having been engaged for the period of nine years to the House of Deaconesses in The Hague, where she has also received her training as Nurse.

The District Nursing work at Zwolle, which I described shortly in my former letter, may rejoice in a provisional success. Miss Kruysse, who began it on the 15th of October of the previous year, has most kindly given me some information. The work, to which she devotes herself with the greatest zeal, rouses general interest. The poor ones know how to appreciate it, and the physicians give it their highly valued support. As a matter of course, there is as yet not much to say of it. The work is still in the initial stage. As to the lines on which it is worked, it is quite unnecessary to expatiate to my English readers, as it is based on the plan of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute.

In Amsterdam a *Central Office for Nursing* has lately been opened in behalf of those families and physicians who want the assistance of a private Nurse. From various sides complaints have risen on the difficulty in getting a Nurse in cases of sudden illness, when the help of a trained and experienced person is indispensable. When, after long seeking and much waste of time, the dwelling-place of some private Nurse, who does not belong to an institution for sick nursing, is found at last, it happens often enough that the much desired for angel of charity and consolation is already engaged in devoting herself to the care of some other patient. In order to remove this grievance, three Amsterdam ladies have made a register, on which are inscribed the names of all those private Nurses who have applied to the above-named committee. Whoever wants a Nurse for one of his friends or relatives, has only to look on that list when he wishes to know what Nurses are free. All private Nurses living at Amsterdam, above the age of twenty-five, who have received a sufficient training in some Hospital, and given proofs of being in the possession of those qualities that are required in a private Nurse, may have their names put on the register already mentioned. By this measure the public, as well as the physicians and the Nurses themselves, are assisted. The Hague has followed the example of Amsterdam, and likewise founded a Central Office for Nursing.

A new Sanatorium for sufferers from diseases of the nerves (not lunatics) has been opened in one of the most beautiful and healthy parts of our country. It is situated on the high road between Arnhem and Velp, and surrounded by a splendid garden. The Sanatorium, of which Dr. Jegersma is the medical superintendent, is under the control of a college of regents, amongst which we find the most learned and skilful of our Dutch psychiatrists—Prof. Dr. Winkler from the University of Utrecht, and Dr. van Deventer, the medical superintendent of the well-known Asylum for Lunatics, Meerenberg. The institution answers all the exigencies that may be put in our days to an establishment of that kind.

And now good-bye for the present.

HOLLANDIA.

Amsterdam, April 29th, 1895.

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