

cost thereof, and in any case where a school was visited by a nurse of the society the board would provide a basin and kettle for the use of a nurse at a cost of three shillings for the two articles.

"The work done by the voluntary nurses consists in weekly or daily visits to the schools, seeing the children sent to her by the teachers, dressing small sores, cleaning dirty heads and bathing sore eyes. Where necessary the teacher is advised to exclude a child, or a bad case is followed to its home or the mother sent for to be seen at the school. After six months' regular visiting head and eye diseases become cured, and a higher standard of cleanliness reigns in the school, and the nurses' visits are less frequent, and often very brief."

#### NURSING IN THE DOMINION.

Miss McLeod, Chief Superintendent of the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada, spoke on district nursing in the Dominion:

"The pioneers in district nursing in Canada," she said, "were the Sisters of Charity, who also led the way in hospital nursing. Early in the year 1897, the year of the celebration of our late beloved Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the women of Western Canada recommended that an organization be formed as a Jubilee offering to Her Majesty which would provide nursing service in the more remote districts of the Dominion. The Countess of Aberdeen responded enthusiastically, and when the project, known to us as the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada, was finally launched, owing to false rumours as to the aims of the Order it met with little response from either doctors or nurses. This prejudice was finally overcome, and a Royal charter was procured which authorized the formation of a Board of Governors which should have the management and control of the Order, and appointed the Governor-General of Canada as patron.

"The Order undertakes to teach district nursing. Only nurses holding diplomas from some recognized hospital or training school and who come highly recommended are considered eligible for the course of training in district nursing. A period of four months' probation is given at the training home either at Montreal or Toronto to test the adaptability, tact and previous training of the nurses. At the end of that time the nurse is recommended to the board of governors as a candidate for the order. When she enters, she is pledged for two years' service and must be prepared to go anywhere in the Dominion for district nursing or to serve in one of the cottage hospitals. She is provided with an outfit and receives a salary of not less than 300 dollars with maintenance and laundry.

"The work of the order has slowly, but steadily, progressed, and has been extended from coast to coast. Twenty-six branches have been established, and in all fifty nurses are engaged in the work. The Countess of Minto is doing much to create a special fund to provide suitable buildings for cottage hospitals. We have now seven cottages in the West, and these will be open to give a training in nursing to the educated Indian girls."

Time for discussion was limited, but questions and answers of interest placed before the Meeting many interesting items of work and organization.

#### AFTERNOON AND LAST SESSION.

The last regular meeting of the Congress opened at 2 p.m., and besides the presentation of two resolutions and impromptu speeches by the foreign delegates at the close, the session was devoted to the consideration of Nursing in the Army and Navy and Organization and Legislation among Nurses.

"Army Nursing in America" was the topic of a bright, interesting paper by Mrs. Dita H. Kinney, Superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps of the United States Army. She began by saying: "No occasion should be allowed to pass unnoticed which offers an opportunity for a tribute to her who is the professional mother of us all, or to him to whom the Army Nurse Corps owes its existence. Just as soldiers, be they officers or privates, salute in passing their superiors, do we army nurses metaphorically rise to our feet and stand 'at attention' as we recall for a moment all that we owe to the wisdom and philanthropy of this woman and this man—Florence Nightingale, the first army nurse, and George M. Sternberg, Surgeon-General United States Army—we salute you."

Miss Annie Arkle, who was sent to the Congress by the Sister Indian Army Service, India Office, London, gave an insight into the work of Indian army-nursing service. She spoke from experience, having spent five years in the army-nursing service of that country.

Two papers, on "Nursing in South Africa" and on "Nursing during the Boer War," were crowded out, one by Miss Pope, Nurse to the Canadian Contingent, the second by Sister Henrietta, and are to appear in the Transactions of the Congress.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the President of the International Council of Nurses, discussed organization and legislation among nurses, and her paper on "The Organization and Registration of Nurses" aroused deep interest and the close attention of the assembled delegates.

Mrs. Fenwick said:

"This question of the Organization and Registration of trained nurses has occupied my mind for many years, and, indeed, there are few subjects which can be of greater importance to any profession than those which relate to its organization, and to the basis upon which its recognized membership is founded. In the case of Nursing it will be generally admitted that these matters are still in an inchoate condition, although our pioneers have dug and delved, and loosened the roots of many prejudices.

"As most trained nurses know, there is at present no general standard of training and certification adopted for the nursing profession. Some hold that Nursing is still so infantile in its growth that it would be impossible to define a general and universal curriculum of education. Others, however, have argued strongly that until nursing education is systematized,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)