

Appointments.**LADY SUPERINTENDENT.**

Miss Bateson has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the District Nursing Home, Chester. She was trained at the Infirmary, Birmingham, and has held the positions of Staff Nurse at the Sheffield Nursing Institution, and Lady Superintendent of the District Nursing Home at Wolverhampton.

MATRON.

Miss Eleanor Richardson has been appointed Matron of the Stockport Infirmary. She was trained at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and has held the position of Sister at the Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton, and served with the Army Nursing Staff in South Africa during 1899 and 1900, and has been Assistant Matron at the Royal Hospital, Portsmouth, since November, 1900.

The International Council of Nurses.**REPORT ON NURSING IN ITALY.**

BY MISS AMY TURTON.

I regret that my paper must be necessarily far from satisfactory, owing to the difficulty in obtaining concise information. I have been unable to find out if any training school existed in Italy before one started by Professor Durante and Signora Prandi Ribeghini in Rome in 1892, or 1893.

Professor Durante instituted a set of lectures in his surgical clinic, and Signora Prandi conducted from six to ten young girls from her "Scuola Professionale," who first listened to the lectures, then were taken to the dressings, and finally admitted to operations, and entrusted (I think, after six months) with the nursing of his operative cases. Italians have great facility for grasping most things, and these girls learnt well everything that was taught.

The misfortune was that so many things were not taught at all, and others were mistaught. No Matron being obtainable (trained nurses not yet existing in Italy), everything had to be taught by the surgeon and his assistants. The ethics of nursing thus became falsified, and the girls refused to do the humbler offices for the sick, calling them "bassi servizi," and ringing for servants to do them, or leaving them undone (the emptying of utensils) for a whole night. The surgeons were also of course unable to teach bed-bathing and bed-making, poultice-making, etc., except theoretically.

In consequence, an Italian friend, who called

in Durante's two best nurses, and who had seen English trained nurses at work, defined Durante's as "excellent young women, but ignorant of the most rudimentary parts of their profession."

In 1896 (a sequence, we think, of the propaganda we were beginning to spread) an attempt was made to give theoretical teaching to the staff of the big Woman's Hospital in Rome, San Giovanni. Both the nuns and the servant nurses (*infermiere inservienti*) were ordered by the administration to attend a set of lectures given by one of the physicians, which comprised the elements of anatomy and physiology, and went fairly thoroughly into the theory of nursing, of disinfection and ventilation, and ended with demonstration of bandaging.

These lectures lasted during one winter, and were followed by an examination, conducted by a medical and surgical chief (the former being also superintendent of the hospital), and by the lecturer. The nuns were examined separately, and were more severely interrogated than the servants, but the same set of lectures served for the instruction of all.

Since this first attempt, there have been two other sets of lectures on the same lines, followed by examination; the nun-novices and the new servant nurses (with those who failed to pass the first year's exam.) were the audience.

In Florence, two years later, the same attempt at educating the staff technically, was made at the General Hospital, Santa Maria Nuova. The lectures were excellent, and the servant nurses, male and female, were obliged to attend; but the nuns declined to be present, with the exception of the superintending sister and one companion sister, who assisted at the lectures to see that the servant nurses conducted themselves with propriety. These lectures have not been repeated; probably because the Superintendent saw the uselessness of giving instruction to nuns who refused to receive it, and to nurses who were unable to remember what they heard, having no text-books sufficiently elementary for their comprehension, and being too illiterate to take any sort of notes. I have not been able to ascertain what curriculum is adopted in the convents of nursing orders. It certainly varies greatly. In that of the Roman Hospital above mentioned, I heard that it was originally very comprehensive, but has not kept pace with the times. The Sisters of this Order (founded by the Princess Doria, grandmother to the present Prince) are unusually proficient in *everything that is not prohibited*. They make beds, change linen, make poultices, wash (to a certain extent), and comb their patients, as well as give hypodermics and medicines, prepare surgical dressings, instruments, etc. The elder Sisters are even proficient at

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