

providing for the organization of an Army Nurse Corps, and thus conceding the right of women nurses to care for the sick and wounded American Soldiers; also that the Matrons' Council was on the morrow to present its memorandum to our Secretary of State for War, suggesting reforms in our Army Nursing Service. This important question of Army Nursing was brought before the Congress by Mrs. Dita H. Kinney, Superintendent of your Army Nurse Corps, and I have since been received by her in your beautiful State, War, and Navy Building at Washington, where I found her at work in her new and most onerous department realising difficulties, but full of hope; in the same hour the blessed mail was crossing the Atlantic, bringing me a little white letter bursting with the good news that our own War Office had issued a report suggesting the re-organization of our Army Nursing Service from top to toe, and for the first time giving power and authority to a Matron in Chief to carry those reforms into effect.

The International Council will presently compare both the British and American systems—the former just for once, gives much more scope for efficient organization, and therefore of providing a good system of nursing—and should it be proved that we have obtained more privileges than they have been granted in America, then our system can be usefully handled for purposes of comparison, and for obtaining further concessions from Congress. Thus I hope you will agree that International Co-operation amongst nurses has its national uses.

In conclusion, words fail me through which to express the delight of a short tour through Canada, and the fine American Cities of the Eastern States—Montreal and Toronto, Buffalo, Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston and New York. In each, I was the guest of able colleagues in the Homes attached to some of the finest Hospitals in the world, every courtesy and kindness fell to my happy lot, and I left America as I always do full of regret, and marvellously refreshed in body and soul.

Miss Isla Stewart was then introduced to the meeting by the Chairman as "Matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and President of the Matrons' Council, who has taken an active part in nursing organization."

Miss Stewart dealt with "Teaching in the Nurse Training Schools." She said that nursing had only just emerged in Great Britain from the position of a life of self-sacrifice to that of an honourable profession. In America things are much the same. They are still in the stage of evolution. There are still divergencies in the training given, and, consequently, differences in the efficiency of the nurse when trained. The most comprehensive system of nursing education which came under her notice while in America was that in force at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore. In a course of six months preliminary training required of pupils before they entered the wards for practical work in attending on the sick, they were required, under the superintendence of an experienced woman, to become skilful in domestic work, and were responsible for repairing and keeping stock of all linen entrusted to their care, they then went to the kitchen, where they were taught the management of a kitchen, and learnt to clean sinks and stoves and later to cook and carve;

they also gained experience in the supply room, and received theoretical instruction on a large variety of subjects. Miss Stewart here gave an outline of the comprehensive curriculum laid down by the training school authorities. After they had satisfactorily passed an examination in the knowledge thus acquired they began their actual nursing work in the wards of the hospital. The hours on duty in the wards were reduced to eight hours daily, but these must be considerably lengthened by the theoretical study required. The probationers were not paid but received an honorarium to provide uniform, books and stationery. Four scholarships are also given annually.

Another admirable training school was the Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia. Throughout the States the comfort of the nurses was considered, their homes were well appointed, appliances for study were provided and they were well taught, so that Matrons in the future should take up their appointments knowing all the hundred and one things which it behoved a Matron to know.

Miss C. J. Wood, for many years Lady Superintendent of the Children's Hospital, Great Ormond Street, and who was described by the Chairman as having taken "an active part in Workhouse Nursing Reform and in public work for nurses" spoke next on the nursing of the insane.

Both in the United States and in this country we were, she said, in a transition state, and she was glad to have the opportunity of comparing notes on the subject with Dr. Hurd, of the Buffalo State Hospital, and others. She did not gather that the nursing of the insane in the States ever reached so low a condition as at one time it did in this country. In America the general organization of Insane Nursing was simpler than with us, there were not so many bodies to deal with the asylums. The Treasury Fund supplies the requisite sum for maintenance, and the Commissioners in Lunacy look after the welfare of the patients, who are divided into three classes, (1) the destitute, (2) those who can reimburse the asylums for the expenses incurred on their behalf, (3) those who can afford to pay for luxuries. In England we had private asylums, the blessings of which were very doubtful, and things were further complicated by our Poor Law System. She found no Society in America which was an equivalent to the Association of Asylums Workers in this country, which she described as a voluntary effort to raise the standard of Asylum Nursing.

Mrs. Glynes then introduced Miss Amy Hughes "for some years connected with the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses and until recently Superintendent of the largest Co-operation of Nurses in this country."

Miss Hughes, in common with the other delegates spoke of the real good time they had had in the United States, and of the hospitality and sisterliness shown to them.

She had, she said, made a special study of District Nursing methods in America, in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. In each case the nursing of the poor in their own homes was performed on somewhat different lines, and work was still being done with a view to finding out the most practical methods of organization.

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