

College, Miss Banfield said it was of special and increasing importance, affording, as it did, instruction to trained nurses in executive duties before they undertook the responsibility of discharging them.

Dr. ELLEN SANDELIN (Sweden) said that the first attempt made in Sweden to form a nursing organisation was in the year 1849, when a Society of Deaconesses was inaugurated, and established a hospital in which pupils were received for practical instruction and training in nursing duties.

From this small beginning the movement widely extended. At first only practical teaching was given, but since the year 1890 theory also had been taught. The course in theoretical instruction lasted six months, and included the underlying principles of medicine and surgery, elementary anatomy, physiology and hygiene, and also instruction in nursing.

Deaconesses severing their connection with the institution were required to send in their resignations, and to state their reasons for resigning in writing. Three months' notice was required.

Upon the Red Cross Society in Sweden (which was founded in 1860) devolved also the duty of training nurses in time of peace. The period of training was twelve months, six months being spent in Stockholm and six at Upsala. After this a six months' service must be given as a probationary Sister, either in a Red Cross or another hospital. If this was satisfactorily passed through, the Sister was then required to enter the Red Cross Service, and to sign a contract to serve in time of war. She must then serve for two years either in a hospital or as a private nurse. Queen Sophia, the Consort of the King, who herself has suffered severe illness, in 1884 dedicated a home for nurses, to which in the following year hospital wards were added. These two institutions were subsequently enlarged, and became the stately Sophia Hospital.

On entering this institution the pupil pays 100 crowns and promises to remain for three years. She receives theoretical and practical instruction during the first half-year at the Sophia Hospital, and afterwards in the various divisions of the Seraphinnen hospitals. After a year and a-half those pupils who have passed a good examination are accepted as probationary Sisters. After another half-year's work they gain a testimonial, but for another year they are still bound by contract to the Sophia Home.

When trained, these nurses receive 250 crowns yearly. They are bound to the Home by a contract, which is entered into after the first three years have elapsed. Sisters, probationary Sisters, and pupils live in the Sophia Home for Nurses, where they receive board, lodging, and uniform. In conclusion, the speaker expressed her conviction that the adequate training of nurses was a matter of incalculable importance to medical practitioners,

as the recovery of a patient frequently depended upon the careful and intelligent fulfilment of their instructions.

THE DISCUSSION.

Amongst those who took part in the discussion were Frau Emmy von Gordon, Miss Isla Stewart, Miss Mary E. Thornton (Secretary of the Nurses' National Associated Alumnae of the United States), Lilli Baroness von Bistram, Frau Oberin Becker, Frau Thusnelda Arndt, Frau Schoman Cassel, Professor Zimmer, and Dr. Israel.

Miss MARY E. THORNTON said: "Madam Chairman and Honourable Members of the International Council of Women of the land of Kaiserswerth,—In the very instructive papers so ably presented by the members from Germany, England, Italy, Sweden, France, and America we have been shown the cornerstone and capital—the past and present, with a glimpse of the future—of nursing." As a worker in the bricks and mortar of the American Federation of Nurses the speaker asked permission to explain some of the constructive work accomplished to those who were yet busy with laying foundations, if not actually with choosing their claim. She then briefly explained the origin and formation of the Nurses' Associated Alumnae of the United States in 1893, which, at first including a few hundred names, had steadily grown until now it included many societies, and had a membership of over 5,000; the foundation in 1900 of the *American Journal of Nursing*, edited for some time by nurses more than busy in their several spheres; and, finally, the formation of the American Federation in 1901, and the entry of trained nurses into various branches of sanitary and other work.

She concluded by saying:—"To read all this seems simple, yet many here will know what it has cost, and how too few have been obliged to go on carrying out the work while a large majority remain inert. To those of you who have the work before you I would say, Rally round your leaders, have no isolated central figures, but close in, act as one woman, and, in the words of the old Elon song, 'row, row together.' Strive to recognise the sincere in that which is in your midst while it is yet here; pillows of immortelles are of doubtful compensation after a lifetime of misunderstanding and lack of support."

Frau OBERIN BECKER presented a paper in which she advocated that all girls of the better classes should receive a year's instruction in nursing, even if they did not intend to adopt nursing as a profession. In the past ten years about 1,600 girls had offered themselves for this year of instruction at her initiation, and she had no difficulty in placing 200 pupils annually in the seminars, or town hospitals serving as training schools, under the superintendence of a Matron. Whether they subsequently continued the work or no, such an experience was an excellent one, and pupils often returned to state how valuable they had found it in after-life.

Frau THUSNELDA ARNDT expressed the opinion that the Free Sisterhood—that is, the organisation of German nurses associated together outside the Religious Orders—was injurious, and that the earnest, hard-working nurse was in danger of degenerating professionally, physically, and morally, and, further, of injuring her health, because she desired to earn money in as short a time as possible. This was at the root of

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