

The International Red Cross Conference.

The 8th International Red Cross Conference was opened on Tuesday at the Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment, W.C., by Earl Roberts, K.G., who received the many distinguished delegates in the name of the Queen, President of the British Red Cross Society, and also read a letter from her Majesty welcoming them to the first International Red Cross Conference held on British soil, in which she referred to the fact that we still had amongst us Miss Florence Nightingale, whose heroic Red Cross work would endure as long as the world lasted.

The President also read a message from the Empress Marie of Russia, wishing success to the Conference.

Miss Florence Nightingale's secretary wrote in her name that she was greatly honoured at the terms of the resolution to be proposed in connection with her name at the Conference. Although quite unable to take part in it, she was deeply interested in its work, and wished it all success.

Lord Roberts then declared the Conference open to any other speaker, when brief speeches were made by the Marquis de Vogüe, President of the Central Committee of the French Red Cross, Baron von dem Knesebeck, President of the Central Committee at Berlin, and M. G. Ador, first Vice-President of the International Red Cross Committee.

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS EXHIBITION.

The Exhibition of Red Cross appliances and recent inventions, held in connection with the Red Cross Conference, was opened in the Prince's Hall, Earl's Court Exhibition, on June 11th. It is to be regretted that the Committee responsible for the arrangements, should have selected a place so difficult of access, and also so unsuitable, as Earl's Court Exhibition Buildings. The surrounding water chutes, and cheap tinsel Balkan displays, are so incongruous, and create such a wrong "atmosphere," that this interesting and instructive exhibit is shorn of much of the dignity and importance which ought to characterise it.

Her Majesty the Queen, H.M. the Queen of Denmark, and H.R.H. Princess Victoria visited the Exhibition on Tuesday morning. They spent an hour in inspecting the various appliances, and graciously expressed their approval and gratification. The Queen was much interested in a beautiful dog, trained for ambulance work, shown by Major Richardson. These dogs are employed, during warfare, in finding the wounded and missing. Switzerland, Holland, Germany, France, Italy, Japan, Austria, Russia, Denmark, America, and Great Britain were all exhibiting. A notable German exhibit was a model of the Doecker portable hospital, which can be quickly built up in sections, the beds and other "collapsible" furniture being a special feature. The Russian hospital train showed a perfect bedroom, and kitchen equipment, and in the Japanese section an object of interest was an emergency stretcher used in the

late war, just a couple of tree poles fixed across with telephone wire.

Carter, of New Cavendish Street, W., had a small but fine exhibit, their ambulance with Rastillon springs being especially noteworthy.

Nursing in Crown Colonies.

The Colonial Nursing Association, which this week holds its Annual Meeting at Grosvenor House, was originally founded by Lady Piggott, "to provide trained nurses for the British Colonies and Dependencies, and other British Communities abroad, both for private and hospital work." The Association has quickly increased in usefulness and importance, and, of the eleventh year of its existence, is able to report that 167 nurses have been at work during the year, 121 of whom were employed by Government and 46 as private nurses. This is an increase of twenty-three on last year. During the past year several of the private branches have increased the number of nurses. The Ceylon Nursing Association now employs seven nurses at the Hatton Home in the Hills, and since the beginning of the year has kept one member of the staff permanently in Ceylon, so as to be more accessible. In Johannesburg a Matron and six nurses are employed; at Mussoorie two nurses.

The Association has also sent out a nurse to the South African Church Railway Mission, and her work has been so successful that another is shortly to go to join her. The head of the Mission, the Rev. Douglas Ellison, writes: "Both our nurses seem to have their hands full; and it was good the other day to hear a typical South African matron, whose home had been blessed by the ministrations of one of them, saying that even if the Railway Mission had never accomplished anything else, it has abundantly justified its existence by the introduction of these trained nurses."

During the past year two of the nurses belonging to the Association underwent the unpleasant experience of shipwreck. Happily both were eventually safely rescued, and no bad results followed. Both nurses exhibited coolness and courage. Two of the candidates recommended during the year by the Scottish Committee have received appointments in British East Africa and Mauritius, and four have been placed on the books of the London office as eligible for employment when suitable vacancies occur.

It will give some idea of the wide spread work of this Association to mention the principal places in which they are working. These are Bangkok, Ceylon, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Lisbon, Mauritius, South Africa, Teheran, Venice, the Gold Coast, Northern Nigeria, Sierra Leone, British Guiana, the Falkland Isles, Gibraltar, the Straits Settlements, and the Federated Malay States. It must be a great gratification to Lady Piggott that her efforts for the good of her fellow countrymen and countrywomen have resulted in the foundation of so wide-spread and useful an organisation.

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