

The International Red Cross Conference.

TRIBUTE TO MISS FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

It was a graceful action on the part of the Hungarian Red Cross Society to depute one of its delegates at the Red Cross Conference held in London last week to pay a tribute to Miss Florence Nightingale, whose work for the sick soldier in the Crimean War afforded the world so conspicuous an illustration of the necessity for women's work in hospitals in war time, and of the executive ability of which woman is capable.

Comte A. de Csekonics, who was charged with this duty, said that Miss Nightingale, following her natural bent, and renouncing the fair prospects of her youth and the pleasant distractions of her social position, appeared during the Crimean War as the chief of nurses. All the world knew what she had accomplished. Not only did she work, but her experiences had served as lessons in the care of the sick. One of the translators of the most important of her publications, "Notes on Nursing," had said of it: "It is the logic of nursing." The modesty of Miss Nightingale was the greatest of her merits. After the Crimean War, when the nation was preparing for her a magnificent reception, she returned home unobserved and an invalid. Although Queen Victoria decorated her, and Longfellow immortalised her in "The Lady with the Lamp," she avoided all manifestations of public gratitude. He concluded by moving a resolution declaring that "The incomparable name of Miss Florence Nightingale, who has earned for herself unforgettable renown in the sphere of humanity and elevated the task of caring for the sick, once so humble, to an art of charity, imposes on the eighth International Conference of Red Cross Societies the noble duty of rendering homage to her virtues—firstly, by a warm expression of its high esteem; secondly, by establishing a Nightingale foundation with a commemorative international medal intended solely for such ladies as shall have particularly distinguished themselves in the work of nursing."

On the suggestion of Mr. Ador it was agreed to refer the contribution to the Central Committees of the various countries before any resolution on this subject was arrived at.

THE WORK OF THE RED CROSS.

The Reports presented at the Sessions of the eighth International Red Cross Conference, held in London last week, were full of interest to those concerned in the case of the sick.

THE AUGUSTA FUND.

M. Gustave Ador presented that upon the

Augusta Fund, founded by the late Empress Augusta of Germany.

Professor Paunwitz remarked that the desire of the Empress Augusta was that the fund should be devoted to good works in time of peace, and the adoption of this principle in Germany had resulted in the Red Cross organisation there established obtaining a marvellous development. On his suggestion, a resolution was passed favouring a sum being set aside from the Fund to enable from four to six delegates to visit and report on the Red Cross institutions in various countries.

BUREAUX FOR PRISONERS OF WAR.

Baron von Knesebeck pointed out the deep obligation of the Red Cross Society to help prisoners of war. Amongst them there were always sick and wounded men. Indeed, it was often owing to this fact that they became prisoners. During the Russo-Japanese war, Japanese prisoners in Russia who made their way to Germany were helped by the Red Cross Societies.

MISUSE OF THE RED CROSS.

Professor Louis Renault read a paper on the suppression of the abuse of the Red Cross. It was for Governments to move in the matter and to submit to their respective Legislatures what appeared to be the necessary measures.

THE RED CROSS AT SEA.

In regard to the Nursing of the Sick at Sea, the Conference adopted the following resolution: "That the Conference expresses the wish that in different countries and under the form best suited to them, according to their particular organisation, there should be established bonds between the naval administration and the societies affording aid, so as to allow the latter to furnish useful assistance and to obtain the necessary means for exercising their charitable action."

Mr. G. H. Makins, C.B., F.R.C.S., submitted a paper on "The Rôle of Red Cross Societies during Maritime War," in which he pointed out that under such conditions medical officers, and male and female nurses, would certainly be needed in numbers far above that which any Navy could possibly supply. A portion of the equipment of a hospital ship sailing with a fleet upon the high seas should be a portable canvas hospital to set up on shore if needed.

THE WORK OF THE JAPANESE RED CROSS SOCIETY.

Dr. Nagao Ariga, a member of the Permanent Council of the Red Cross Society of Japan, read a paper on the work of this Society during the Russo-Japanese War, and the principles by which it was guided. The approximate number of patients cared for by the Japanese Army Medical Service during the War was 580,000. It was not easy to determine to what proportion the Red Cross Society afforded relief because it always worked side by side with the Army Medical Corps. In almost all the hospitals on the line of communications and at home the Society's Relief Corps had been entrusted with the treatment of severe medical and surgical cases and infectious diseases, and only the Red Cross Society's nursing personnel was used in hospital ships. Moreover,

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