

A CENTRAL PREPARATORY COURSE.

By MISS M. HUXLEY.

Mrs. Fenwick said that Miss Huxley was, to her great regret, unable to be present to give an account of the Metropolitan Technical School for Nurses in Dublin. Her paper would, however, be printed later in the Transactions. The School had been founded for some years, and embraced the pupils of several hospitals, as the majority of the Dublin hospitals were affiliated with it. The results were reported to be satisfactory, and London nurses congratulated Dublin on its central preliminary organisation.

THE PROGRESS OF NURSING IN GERMANY.

By SISTER AGNES KARLL.

President, German Nurses' Association.

Sister Karll said that one hundred years ago one large State hospital in Germany fixed its standard of training at five months; now it is content with three months! A few hospitals have fixed one year, but most give nominally six months. Should extra hands be needed probationers of a week's standing are sent to responsible cases without hesitation. Discontented with these conditions, 15 months ago the Bundesrath passed a law for the German Empire, fixing a year's training before the Government examination, which is unfortunately optional; but even for this step forward German nurses are thankful. The German Nurses' Association has provided for a second year's training in all hospitals staffed solely by its members. As the regulations only came into force on June 1st last, no progress has been possible, but many States are waiting Prussia's example before deciding. Lübeck has already drawn up its rules, and two nurses of the Association are in possession of State Registration.

The Sophienhaus in Weimar has, since April 21st, instituted a course of training, moulded according to State plans, and owing to the far-sightedness of Geh. Rat Pfeiffer (the head doctor), receives probationers other than those destined for the Motherhouse. These probationers bind themselves only to pay a small sum on entering.

The future will show whether the Municipal hospitals in Dusseldorf, Dortmund, and Rheydt, which are now connected with the German Nurses' Association, fulfil all that they promise. It is hoped that doctors and hospital boards will learn not to found schools without fulfilling their duties, and not to use pupils as the cheapest workers. They should carefully choose their Matrons from nurses with teaching capabilities; give proper time for instruction and study, and not after 14—15 hours' hard work. Until these things come German nurses cannot speak of progress. One hope we have, said Sister Karll, "The Future is Ours."

THE STATUS OF NURSING IN HOLLAND.

By MISS VAN LANSCHOT-HUBRECHT.

Miss Hubrecht's account of the Dutch

training schools, and the status of the nursing profession was a very humble and almost pessimistic one, though they have already reached a certain amount of organisation and method, i.e., the age must not be under 20, and there is a standard of education required; also the lowest number of beds in a training school must be 40, and the course is three years. But she seems to think that the method of training is too casual, and the standard required both for theory and technique is too superficial, and that only the well educated and ambitious nurses, study and acquire knowledge and train themselves. There is a Matrons' Association, but the members seem apathetic, and consequently they are not progressing or advancing of late, and they have much difficulty in recruiting their probationers, as there are not many in Holland who care about nursing, and the Matrons do not realise that they themselves are at fault for not encouraging them more, and throwing more fire and zeal into the work. The hospitals are well administered, and managed.

THE PROGRESS OF NURSING IN DENMARK.

By MISS BODIL HELLFACH.

Thirty years ago the first few young women from the upper classes entered the hospitals as nurses, meeting with much opposition from the authorities and doctors. They worked so well that opinions changed, and now there are more than a thousand working. Some of the hospitals are old, some up to date, but good work is done in all, and Denmark has a high standard of practical work. During the last few years, the authorities have raised the salaries, and built comfortable homes for the nurses; the hours are shorter. The great needs are Matrons, a systematic training to make hospitals real training schools, and then State Registration. In 1899 the nurses founded their Association with about 50 members; now it numbers over 1,000. The members must have 3 years' training, and wear a badge when on duty. This Danish Council of Nurses has done much in a few years, i.e., founded two homes, an insurance fund, also a fund to assist nurses in training, cooking classes, a home of rest, social and educational meetings, and a nursing journal. Earnest efforts are now being made to obtain State Registration.

NURSING EFFORTS IN ITALY.

By MISS M. A. TURTON.

Mrs. Fenwick explained that nursing advancement in Italy had so far been the result of individual effort, and read the following letter from Miss Turton, of Florence:—
Dear Mrs. Bedford Fenwick,

Miss Baxter and I extremely regret our inability to attend the Nursing Conference. The past nursing efforts in Italy hold good, those nurses trained by Miss Baxter, Signorina Tonino, and myself being always in request, and the testimonies to their qualities equally satisfactory. But the new efforts, which are in process of elaboration, can at present only be

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