

touched on, since they are still more hopes than facts. The greatest reason we have for hope I may just mention, however. This is the joining of the pioneer nurse ranks by an Italian who is a lady with influence in the world of medicine. My belief is that Signora Sciamanna will be the woman who will be to Italy what Mlle. Dr. Hamilton has been, and is, to France, the woman who will convert Italian sanitary authorities to the conviction that the superintendence and training of nurses is woman's and not man's work, and who, I fervently hope, will at the next Nursing Congress, join Miss Baxter and myself in representing an Italian school, however modest, on the system of Florence Nightingale.

With warmest wishes for the fulfilment of the object the Nursing Conference has in view, and renewed regret at my involuntary absence,

Believe me,

Very faithfully yours,

M. A. TURTON.

THE FINNISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

By BARONESS MANNERHEIM, *President*.

Although only ten years old, this Association has already done good work. The first regular training of nurses was organised in 1886 on the opening of the Surgical Clinique of the University of Helsingfors, when one year was decided upon.

The probationers lived in the town. This being inconvenient, the nurses founded their Association, and decided to open a home for them, but as the probationers were not compelled to live there, discipline was lacking. One Finnish nurse training in England fortunately met Miss Nightingale, who pointed out the importance of making residence in the Home compulsory, and also gave a little money to be used for the Home when that was done; this was only accomplished last year. The best thing done by the Association had been the institution of the preliminary training course, which was in charge of a Sister who had had the opportunity of studying the working of such a school in England, with very satisfactory results. This made the training now 1½ years, which is not yet sufficient, but the Association is young and energetic, and is working towards a more satisfactory training.

THE HOSPITAL ECONOMICS COURSE AT TEACHER'S COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

By MISS L. L. DOCK.

Miss Dock said that 15 years ago the Superintendents' Society and the Association of Graduate Nurses were founded, which, amongst other uses, afforded the members an opportunity of comparing their grievances, woes, and troubles. Ten years ago they discovered by this means that the Superintendents were unhappy, as they felt they were not properly prepared to teach their pupils, or, for the general domestic management of a large institution. They found that teaching was an art requiring a special training, and that not every good nurse was a good teacher. The Superintendents' Society, therefore, persuaded the University of New York

to establish a course for hospital trained nurses, in which they could perfect themselves in teaching, and made itself responsible for the salary of the teacher placed in charge of this course. So far it had not been possible for the students to have practical work in a hospital, but now there was a prospect of it. Five of the largest hospitals in New York had recently been affiliated, and the students in the Hospital Economics course will be able to receive in connection with them instruction in administration, purchasing supplies, and teaching. At one time an endowment was hoped for, but it was much better that the nurses should feel the responsibility for their own course, and this they were getting to do. By holding the purse strings, they would be able to control the appointment to the chair and keep it in their own hands.

Discussion.

OPENED BY MISS F. KEITH PAYNE.

Miss F. Keith Payne, Matron of the Wellington Hospital, New Zealand, spoke of the beneficial effect of State Registration in New Zealand, and of the assured position of women in that country, owing to the fact that they possessed the suffrage. They had an eight hours' day in Wellington Hospital, which was arranged by having three relays of nurses. The nurses in New Zealand were too independent to work for long hours. Now that they were increasing in numbers so much, however, the ratepayers, by whom the hospitals are in part supported, were beginning to grumble.

A little group of nurses who were present at the Conference in their indoor uniforms and followed the proceedings with the greatest interest, were those from the Bordeaux Hospitals, under the superintendence of Dr. Anna Hamilton and Miss Elston. Very professional and charming they looked, and their presence occasioned much pleasure to those who have followed the history of these pioneer schools, and realised all for which these nurses stood.

A Few Representative Nurses Present.

The English and Irish Members of the National Council of Great Britain and Ireland contributed at least two hundred members of the affiliated societies.

From Scotland.—Miss A. W. Gill, Miss Thomas, Miss Cowper, Miss Rumsey, Miss Ray, Miss Tatham, altogether about twenty Matrons and Nurses.

From America.—Miss L. L. Dock, Miss Nutting, Mrs. Robb, Miss Maxwell, Miss Fulmer, Miss Genevieve Cooke, Miss Payne, Miss Rutley, Miss Tillinghart, Miss Solari, Mrs. Nathan. Altogether nearly thirty Americans attended, six of whom came from far California.

From Germany.—Fraulein Karll, and thirty-two Matrons and Sisters.

From Denmark.—Miss Bodil Hellfach, Vice-President, Danish Council of Nurses, and ten Sisters.

France, Austria, Switzerland, Norway, Finland, Holland, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand were represented.

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