

Discussion.

OPENED BY MRS. KILDARE TREACY.

President, Irish Nurses' Association.

Mrs. Kildare Treacy, in emphasising the value of organisation, drew attention to the superb arrangements of the Japanese Army Medical Department, for the care of the sick and wounded in the late war. She described these as an object lesson in perfect and successful organisation, altogether admirable, and of much educative value for our observation and information.

Describing nursing organisation in Ireland, she said that twenty years ago the hospitals in which skilled nursing was to be found could be counted on the fingers of one hand. They were the nucleus of the great training schools the country now possessed, but until eight or ten years ago there was no effort for the organisation of Associations of either Matrons or nurses. The visit of the late Queen to Dublin in 1900 brought the Matrons into communication with one another in connection with the presentation of an Address to her Majesty, and this association proved so helpful and pleasant that a Nurses' Club was launched, with Miss Huxley as its first President. This has now developed into an Association having a wide membership in Ireland, and forming a bond of union with the many countries in which Irish nurses travel. The Association has received help and counsel from eminent Irish members of Parliament in regard to nursing matters.

Mrs. Treacy emphasised the professional value, and the broadening and humanising influence of such Associations, as affording opportunities for that friendly comparison and emulation which are so helpful.

She concluded by describing the organisation of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution, of which she is Lady Superintendent.

MRS. BEDFORD FENWICK.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said that in the year 1892 she was invited to sit on the Women's Committee of the British Royal Commission, and to act as President of the British Nursing Section at the World's Fair at Chicago. Matrons of hospitals were in those days not well known to each other, and she asked a lady in Chicago a question she would have no need to ask now, namely, who were the great leaders of nursing on the American Continent. The name of Miss Isabel Hampton (now Mrs. Hampton Robb) was at once given to her. Miss Hampton was kind enough to invite her to visit the Johns Hopkins Hospital, at Baltimore, where she then held the position of Superintendent of the Nurse Training School, and Miss L. L. Dock, that of Assistant Superintendent. Mrs. Fenwick said that she spent several interesting and instructive days with these two ladies, and discussed nursing organisation with them. She believed that the seed of the International Nursing movement now so full of vitality was then sown.

MISS MARY BURR.

Miss Burr said, "I want to try to send a message to the rank and file of nurses. We have

been told by Mrs. Hampton Robb that nothing could be done without the nurses. It is a pity that our leaders should have to strive so long and so hard for thorough organisation and State Registration. And this is the message I want to send. If everyone of you will please go home and tell each nurse you know that registration is what nurses need, and that they should show active sympathy in the movement and do all in their power to get it, we shall have State Registration in most countries soon enough."

GREETINGS.

THE SCOTTISH REGISTRATION COMMITTEE.

Miss Cowper, Superintendent of the Scottish Branch of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, delivered to the Conference the following message from the Scottish Registration Committee, signed by the Chairman, Miss E. S. Haldane.

"At a meeting of the Scottish Registration Committee on May 13th, 1907, Miss Cowper, who intimated that she proposed attending the Paris Conference, was requested to express the Committee's deep interest in the project, and their warm wish that it may prove a great success. Also to say how much they regret that more of their number, owing to professional engagements, are unable to be present at the Conference."

THE NURSES' ASSOCIATED ALUMNÆ OF THE UNITED STATES.

The following letter was received by Miss L. L. Dock, Hon. Secretary of the International Council of Nurses:

"The Nurses' Associated Alumnae of the United States assembled in convention at Richmond, Virginia, May 14th—16th, 1907, appointed Mrs. Isabel Hampton Robb to represent the Society at the International Congress of Nurses, to be held in Paris, France, in June, 1907. Mrs. Robb is instructed to convey the greetings of the Associated Alumnae to the International Congress of Nurses.

ANNIE DAMER, R.N.,
President.
KATHERINE DE WITT,
Secretary.

Mrs. Robb came on to the platform, and personally confirmed this message.

The following telegrams were also received:

LA SOURCE, LAUSANNE.
"Doyenne Ecole Gardes Malades laiques salue
Congresistes. Vive la liberte dans le travail et le
devoeuement. Docteur KRAFFT, La Source,
Lausanne."

DR. HUGO OTTO ZIMMER (Marburg).

"Den versammelten gruesses, und den verhandlungen guten erfolg."

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