

other Countries," and briefly reviewed this wide field. She pointed out that "the most striking feature of District Nursing is its rapid growth, and the prominent position it has attained amongst the social developments of the day. Its history is closely interwoven with the progress of modern hygiene, both domestic and civic, and also with the raising of nursing to the dignity of a profession."

The next speaker was the COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN, who gave further information on the subject of District Nursing in Canada and Ireland.

MISS HITCHCOCK, Supervising Nurse, of the Nurses' Settlement, New York, gave an interesting account of the "Origin and Development of Visiting Nursing in the United States," which she prefaced by saying that it gave her the greatest pleasure to be the bearer of the greetings of American nurses to the Congress. District Nursing was, she said, not co-ordinated in the United States as in this country, and in Chicago, Miss Fulmer, and in Boston Miss Stark, both of whom were present, were trying to work out, in these cities, each in her own way, the problems which confronted them.

MISS ANDREWS, the Hon. Superintendent of the Nursing Branch of the Biblewomen and Nurses' Mission, founded by Mrs. Ranyard, followed with a paper on the "History of the Ranyard Nurses," after which MME. DE BUSSY-KRUYSSSE, representing the Amsterdam District Nursing Association, which employs eleven nurses, gave details of its work. The poor are nursed free, but the nurses go to all classes of society, and have a scale of fees for their daily visits, of six different grades.

MR. W. J. P. GIDDINGS, F.J.I. (South Australia), in a paper on District Nursing in that colony, said fifteen years ago Dr. Allan Campbell, finding the necessity for a better system of nursing among the poor, whom he was often summoned to attend, conceived the idea of making a start in the direction of securing the services of a trained nurse to assist him in cases where the persons concerned were unable to pay for skilled assistance. He commenced by paying the nurse's salary himself; but other generous-minded citizens speedily came to his assistance, and the District Trained Nursing Society of South Australia was the outcome of his noble exertions.

A very interesting report of the work done by the Dutch Reformed Deaconess Institution, Amsterdam, which is affiliated to that at Kaiserswerth, was given by DEACONESS BOISSEVAIN. The course of training required by this institution seems to be most complete and thorough, and includes amongst many other subjects voice culture, physical education, and instruction in foreign languages.

MISS STARK, Superintendent of the District Nursing Association in Boston, described its work, which completely covers the city, and includes the following up of tuberculosis cases in their own homes, and work in the public schools.

MR. HAROLD BOULTON, M.V.O., spoke on "The Psychological Aspect of Nursing." Referring to the System "fantastically misfitted with the name of Christian Science," he said, "Is not the germ of what is true in these mental healing systems al-

ready contained in the gentle art of nursing," and "laying on of hands" by a nurse if she is single-minded in her love of humanity of greater value just because to such noble qualities she adds technical training.

Other speakers in this first Session were DR. FURLONG (Dublin), who said that of all the institutions of which he had any knowledge Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute did the greatest, noblest, most Christlike work in the country; MISS AGNES ATTHILL, who described the work of the Royal Derbyshire Nursing and Sanitary Association; MR. CLEMENTS, Secretary of the Maternity Charity, Plaistow; and MR. HERBERT RATHBONE, who spoke of the difficulty of securing adequate attention for cases requiring more than occasional visits.

KITTY WILKINSON.

He told a most interesting story of the heroism of Kitty Wilkinson, the wife of a cotton porter in Liverpool, who was living in one of the poorest districts when the cholera swept over the city in 1832. She devoted herself to the nursing of the poorest patients, and as she saw that the greatest danger of infection lay in the clothes of infected persons, threw open her cellar as for the washing of the patients' clothes, and so started the first public washhouse. Later she adopted a number of orphaned children, and, though uneducated herself, valued education so highly that through her influence the first corporation school was started. "Could not women imbued with something of her spirit be found, Mr. Rathbone asked, to receive some training which would enable them to supplement the work of the district nurses, and make them valuable auxiliaries.

MISS BROADWOOD advocated the foundation in Liverpool of a small training home on the Holt-Ockley system, to send nurses to reside in the homes of the poor.

MISS FULMER (Chicago) spoke of the struggle to keep up standards. District Nursing was, she said, the same all the world over. The Congress was a real inspiration, and she should go back to face her own special problems with renewed zeal. Tuberculosis was very prevalent in Chicago, and the Visiting Nurse Association had dealt with 1,300 cases.

LADY ABERDEEN described an Association, founded in Berlin for supplying home helpers quite apart from nursing, which afforded an opening for work for respectable elderly women, who worked in conjunction with district nurses. The women had to satisfy a Committee of their suitability for the work.

MISS CURTIS, Q.V.J.I., Superintendent, Hammersmith, said in reply to the question Mr. Herbert Rathbone had raised, that in connection with the Association which she superintended, a little band of women of the class who earned a weekly wage, worked in conjunction with the nurses, and supplemented their skilled nursing. Some had done this for so long that they had a certain amount of elementary training, but their sphere was limited, and they were not allowed to undertake the duties of a trained nurse.

Mrs. ALFRED BOOTH (Liverpool Ladies' Sanitary

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)