

and they believe that they have found a remedy. But as the course of the illness is usually about 30 years, if another complaint does not end the patient's life sooner, as often happens, as leprosy lowers their resisting power, they do not want to talk about it before they are quite sure. They need about 15 years longer, as they think it would be too awful to tell anybody of hope and then that they should be disappointed. They think the disease is only in the blood, and so is not contagious if there is no wound. If one of a married couple has it the other need not contract it, though sleeping all the time in the same bed. But the children often develop the disease. One mother had a healthy girl and never became a leper herself, but her son is fearfully crippled and wholly paralysed from it. And she nursed both her husband and her son all the time. All the nursing in the little hospital is done under supervision of a lady, or sometimes a trained nurse, by relations of the patients or widows of lepers, as men are prevalent on the sick-list. The most is done for them by regeneration of the blood by carefully selected food. How thankful the poor people are may easily be imagined, and perhaps there is one step gained towards extinguishing this terrible disease later. When that interesting tale was finished the German Consul-General and his wife came to welcome the German guests, and Mr. Johannes took Sister Karll in to supper. The German nurses spent a very pleasant evening with their hostess and her sister, Fraulein von Bunsen, and left the house with the deepest gratitude for the kindness of their distinguished countrywoman.

After the close of the Congress, on the 23rd of July, Sister Karll found in her room a beautiful cushion of white stocks, with the Lazarus cross in red geraniums, and the four photographs taken at the opening Congress meeting in the large hall of the Church House, a gift of the German nurses for their President in remembrance of the Congress. On Sunday morning most of them came for the last time to St. Ermin's Hotel to say good-bye, and now many are back at home again, the hearts of all full of gratitude to their kind hostesses, and feeling themselves bound in a much higher degree to their beloved profession, their Association, and the International Council. Most of them attended such a Congress for the first time, and they will never forget these days full of insight into the work of the best and most broad-minded of their profession. They never realised till now what all the brave and untiring struggle of Mrs. Fenwick and her British comrades meant for Great Britain and the whole professional world, nor did they ever find out how the same things are going on in every country, the clashing of the reactionary and the progressive ranks, that may some time be found the greatest blessing, as it is instilling such tone, friendship, and understanding into us as nothing else could. We all want to thank once more Mrs. Fenwick, and all who worked with her to make our Congress such an unbounded success, and say to all our old and new international friends: "Auf Wiedersehen" in Cologne!

GERMANIA.

Progress of State Registration.

Mr. W. Field, M.P., asked the Prime Minister in the House of Commons last week whether he was aware that at the recent International Congress of Nurses, held in London, it was shown that many of the leading European and United States Governments had passed legislation for the registration of nurses; and whether, in view of the fact that the majority of nurses and the volume of medical opinion in Great Britain and Ireland were in favour of similar legislation in the three kingdoms, the Government would introduce a Bill on the subject. The honourable Member in a second question asked the right honourable gentleman whether he was aware that the Irish Committee of the British Medical Association, at their recent meeting in Belfast, passed a resolution that the Irish Committee of the British Medical Association approves of the principle of State registration of nurses with certain provisions, and whether, in view of this professional opinion, the Government will take measures to carry it into effect. Mr. Asquith (replying to both questions) wrote: I can only repeat what I have said on a previous occasion with regard to the question of the State registration of nurses—that his Majesty's Government will consider any representations that may be made to them on the subject. The Prime Minister could not give any undertaking to introduce legislation.

From the *Nurses' Journal of the Pacific Coast*, we learn that

"At a meeting held recently the Board of Regents of the University of California decided to administer our Bill enacted by the Legislature three years ago.

"This decision comes as tidings of great joy to every member of the California State Nurses' Association. We have waited long and patiently, always hoping, in spite of the fact that disappointment awaited us again and again.

"The waiting is over! When we actually realise it—though our joy is sincere—we take a deep breath and know the whole character of our work has changed. Figuratively speaking, the "decks are cleared for action" and our one thought is to get to work and make up for lost time. Latent energy is aroused; dying enthusiasm is rekindled; the possibilities for the future of the California nurse are practically unlimited.

"What may we not accomplish with State registration? A higher standard, more efficient help for the physicians, and, joy of joys, a uniform curriculum. All this means work and interest and the hearty co-operation of every member from the superintendent of the training school to the newest graduate.

"To the Board of Regents, who have 'made all things possible,' we extend our gratitude."

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