

In the Messina disaster the French Red Cross nurses were the first to arrive at Naples, and the Society had a system by which, in case of emergency, nurses were prepared to start at a day's notice for any destination at home or abroad.

The Red Cross Society also undertook social work in the Paris slums, including a sort of embryonic district nursing which they were striving to improve.

Recently an association had been formed, the "Association Mutuelle des Infirmières de la Société aux Blessés," for the purpose of helping such Red Cross nurses as should need aid, and to assure to them old age pensions.

The speaker concluded by saying that what she had learnt at the Congress would be a great help to her in the work which the French Red Cross Society was striving to do in the patriotic and social field, and she was returning to France the richer by a good many excellent suggestions which she hoped to carry through, and for which she was most thankful, especially to those who had organised the Congress so well.

MISS JANE A. DELANO, R.N., President of the Nurses' Associated Alumnae of the United States, said that at the last annual meeting of that Society, which comprises 15,000 members, in Minneapolis, it was voted to affiliate with the National Red Cross Society. That was an important and significant step. She felt very strongly that the selection of nurses for Red Cross work should rest in the hands of the nurses. No one knew nurses so well as they knew one another. It was simple enough to select people for duty where there was much supervision, but when nurses were to be sent away to posts where there was little or no supervision then the selection should be most careful. Just how this would be worked out in America she could not say. A committee was now preparing plans, and she sincerely hoped that the selection of nurses for Red Cross work would be placed in the hands of the nurses' organisations.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SESSION, as a member of the Nursing Board of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, and an Organising Matron in the Territorial Nursing Service, briefly described their organisation. In addition to these Services there was Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve, the members of which held ordinary civil appointments, but were ready to be mobilised in time of war. That Service was at present not so large as it should be because, somehow, Mr. Haldane's picturesque Territorial Nursing Service had appealed to the hearts of the nurses more than the Nursing Reserve. Therefore any nurse who had not joined the Territorial Service, and wished to serve her country, would do well to join the Reserve, which was quite as important.

Miss Stewart concluded by saying that in the event of invasion the nurses of the four hospitals connected with the Territorial Nursing Service in London would be ready in 24 hours to take the places assigned to them in these hospitals.

Mrs. HAMPTON ROBB inquired as to the relation

between the Territorial Nursing Service and the Red Cross.

MISS SIDNEY BROWNE, R.R.C., said the Red Cross Society had at present no responsibilities in regard to the personnel of Territorial Hospitals.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SESSION said that the equipment of the Territorial Hospitals was in the hands of the Red Cross, but so far there was no communication between the Red Cross and the nurses to be employed in these hospitals.

In reply to a further question from Mrs. Robb as to whether the organisation had been tested, Miss Stewart replied in the negative, but said that she believed there was an idea of mobilising one of the hospitals soon to test how quickly the nurses could be brought up and everything put in order.

Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK said that, with the exception of a reference by Sister Karll to the lack of women nurses in the German Navy, everything so far, in this discussion on The Nurse as Patriot, had referred to the Military Nursing Service, but she was sure the professional patriotism of trained nurses extended to the care of our sailors as well as our soldiers. In this country their sympathy and help was more needed for sailors than soldiers, because, owing primarily to the agitation from within the profession, the reform of Army nursing had been rapid and admirable since the South African War. When the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland requested that a deputation of the Society should be received some years ago by the then Secretary of State for War, so that it might submit suggestions for reform in the Military Nursing Service, it was refused a hearing twice before it was received by an enlightened Minister of War, and had it not been for the disastrous results of disorganisation in connection with the nursing of our sick soldiers in the South African war it is probable that the complete reorganisation of our Military Nursing Service might not have been so thorough. The reorganisation of Army nursing was the silver lining to the South African war cloud. We did not wish to wait for the great naval war, with which we were constantly threatened, before providing in the most efficient manner for the care of sick and wounded sailors. This important branch of nursing should be considered now and be brought up to date. Nine years ago the Matrons' Council placed some practical suggestions before the Admiralty—through a personal deputation—but without effective result.

The United States Government had quite recently instituted a Naval Nursing Service under the immediate supervision of a trained Superintendent, and we required a Matron-in-Chief of Naval Nursing at the Admiralty if a really satisfactory nursing service was to be instituted in connection with our Navy. From personal experience through the Græco-Turkish war Mrs. Fenwick could not express sufficiently her appreciation and admiration of the patriotism, not only of trained nurses, but of all women. From nearly every European country nurses and doctors flocked to Greece to serve the sick and wounded, and the splendid ambulance service of the Red Cross Society of France was greatly in

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