

Her Majesty Queen Sophia.

QUEEN DOWAGER OF SWEDEN

It is with great pleasure that we present to our readers a portrait of her Majesty Queen Sophia, the Queen Dowager of Sweden, whose warm interest in nursing and all that pertains to its advancement is well known.

An interesting account of the Sophia Home, Stockholm, is given in the report drawn up by the Swedish Committee formed of representatives from the different nursing institutions, under the patronage of H.M. the Queen Dowager to arrange for the representation of the nursing profession of Sweden at the International Congress of Nurses in London last July.

The idea of a more general and more effective re-organisation of nursing in Sweden arose about 1880, on the initiative of Queen Sophia. Her Majesty, realising how important it was that educated women should devote themselves to the care of the sick, had long cherished a desire to provide regular instruction in nursing for such women, based on Christian principles, and in 1884 a small home was opened in Stockholm, commencing with four pupils, under the direction of a Sister who had been trained at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, the pupils receiving their practical training at Sabbatsberg Hospital.

The success of a small nursing department in connection with the Home carried out on almost new lines, led to the foundation of a hospital by the King and Queen in 1889, called Sophiahemmet (The Sophia Home). This

beautifully situated hospital, which has a Nurses' Home attached to it, was founded entirely by voluntary contributions.

Her Majesty the Dowager Queen has from the beginning been President of the Board of Direction, and her Majesty Queen Victoria of Sweden, the first honorary member. Three of the twelve members of the Board must be ladies and two medical practitioners.

The training given is very thorough, and lasts for three years. It includes a probationary and preliminary course, theoretical and practical instruction, the latter being given partly in the Serafimer Hospital, one of the principal and most up-to-date hospitals in Sweden. The pupils also go through maternity hospitals, children's hospitals, fever hospitals, and, if they wish, may also take a course of work in lunatic asylums. Religious instruction is also given by the Chaplain of the Home. When qualified, the pupil may enter the Sisterhood of the Sophia Home, and remain attached to it indefinitely.

Another Society in which the Queen Dowager has taken an active personal interest is "Queen

Sophia's Society for Supporting Nursing in the Army and Navy," and it was on her Majesty's initiative that in 1905 the first nurses were engaged at the camping places.

Through a gift from the late King Oscar II. and the then Queen Sophia on the occasion of the celebration of their twenty-five years' reign, three large general sanatoria for consumptive people were founded.

It will be seen, therefore, that the sick, as well as the trained nurses of Sweden, owe



Sophia, Queen Dowager of Sweden.

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