

MRS. HENNY TSCHERNING.

President of the Danish Council of Nurses.

The Danish Council of Nurses, of which Mrs. Henny Tscherning is President, was founded just ten years ago, and during the whole of that period, in which it has accomplished much good work, it has been under her leadership.

In the portrait which we present on this page Mrs. Tscherning is wearing the badge of the Association, a golden four-leaved clover in a red setting, bearing the inscription, "Danish Council of Nurses."

She has held responsible posts in the nursing world, and was formerly Superintendent of the female surgical department (containing 200 beds) at the Kommune Hospital, Copenhagen, and married Dr. Tscherning, the Senior Head Surgeon. She has seen great progress in nursing education in Denmark, for it is only a little over thirty years ago that girls of the upper classes began to work in the hospitals. As in other countries, this movement met with a good deal of opposition at first—opposition which, curious to relate, included the physicians of the hospitals, but it was overcome by good and patient work, and now there are educated women in all the great hospitals in Denmark, the three years' standard of training is the rule, and practical nursing in Denmark has reached a high standard. The conditions of work have been improved, and in many instances comfortable nurses' homes have been built, the one at the Kommune Hospital being a notable example. As in other countries, the desire of the organised nurses is for the State regulation of their profession, for the experience of Denmark is the universal one—"now any woman can call herself a nurse and deceive the public." The Committee of the Danish Council of Nurses has therefore advanced the interests both of the nurses and of the public by approaching the Government on this important question, and it is the earnest desire



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of the Council that before long State Registration of Trained Nurses may be an accomplished fact in Denmark. The Danish nurses have shown themselves fully alive to the benefits of international co-operation, and we shall have the pleasure of welcoming no less than forty of them at our coming Congress. We hope on a future occasion we may have the pleasure of meeting in international conference in Denmark. Not only is its beautiful capital well worthy of a visit, but probably

in no other country in Europe do English people feel so thoroughly at home, for there is a curious affinity between England and Denmark, intensified by the fact that so many of the people of the latter country have studied and speak English fluently.

There are several important hospitals in Copenhagen, chief amongst them the Kommune Hospital, of nearly 1,000 beds, whose Superintending Nurse (Lady Superintendent) is one of the delegates sent by the Danish Council of Nurses to the Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council, and to the International Congress of Nurses.

In the Garrison Hospital, in addition to the women nurses, there are orderlies taken from amongst the best conscripts, and it is interesting to learn that many of them have passed their final examinations at the university as ministers, lawyers, teachers, clerks, etc. They learn their drill for two and a half months, during which, in addition to military deportment and discipline, they are taught elementary anatomy, physiology, and first aid to the injured.

The training for midwives in Denmark is excellent, and the Royal Lying-in Hospital permits nurses who have received their general training to work there for a short period, in order to gain experience of maternity work. Only medical practitioners and midwives are allowed to attend women in childbirth.

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