

and I think, when you have seen such a sight, you can have but one opinion on the question.

REPORTS FROM COUNTRIES NOT AFFILIATED.

The next business on the agenda was to receive reports from countries not affiliated.

Reports of great interest were presented—

From France, by Dr. Anna Hamilton, Hon. Vice-President, who said that she found her task of Hon. Vice-President much easier now that each school could speak for itself. She would limit herself to giving a short account of the progressive movement as far as the Bordeaux Schools were concerned, leaving those interested in the Parisian Schools to speak for themselves.

From Italy, by Miss M. A. Turtón, who said that at the last International Congress of Nurses Italy was unable to report any progress. Now, though a training school which could serve as a national model had not yet actually come into existence, the preparations for its birth were almost complete, and the date announced for February 1910. She concluded with a word of hope and prophecy—that at the next Quinquennial Council meeting Italy would be represented not by an Englishwoman, however Italianicised by sympathy and adoption, but by a fully trained Italian Matron.

From Sweden, by Miss Estrid Rodhe, who said that as probably little was known outside Sweden of the development of nursing there, the Organising Committee thought it best to have a short report printed which she would be pleased to give to any members of the Congress who cared to have it. The Swedish Nursing Association had never yet taken part officially in any Congress, and it was an additional pleasure to them that this should occur for the first time in England, the country from which they had received so many good and helpful inspirations for their work.

From Belgium, by Miss Cavell, who said that though nursing in Belgium was still much behind that of England, Holland and other countries, it has made some progress during the last two or three years. A desire is evident in many quarters to supersede the present ignorant and blundering methods by enlightened and up-to-date work.

The only school which is organised exactly on English lines is the Ecole Belge d'Infirmières, generally known as the school of the Rue de la Culture.

From Switzerland.—Miss Jacqueline Rutgers described the work of the first normal Swiss nursing school, "La Source," at Lausanne.

Swiss nurses, said Miss Rutgers, have, so far, not founded a national association, but she expressed the hope that the example of their colleagues in other countries would make them realise the importance of this for Switzerland also.

From Japan.—Miss Doek read the abstract of a paper prepared by the Red Cross Society of Japan, which stated: It is a privilege to bring before this Conference a message from the 14,000 Red Cross Nurses of Japan, and to help to promote the in-

terests and efficiency of the nursing profession through greater unity of sympathy and purpose.

The standard of the Red Cross in Japan is that all the members shall work, not for gain, but from patriotic and devoted ideals. The older social customs of Japan, enforcing separation of the sexes, were set aside by the example of the Princesses and ladies of rank, who undertook to show by personal work that nursing is an honourable calling. Their monthly classes in 1887 stimulated others and broke down the habit of seclusion, and also put an end to the idea that nursing was menial. This was the origin of the Volunteer Nursing Association. It developed rapidly, and now constitutes the auxiliary force, with Central Committee and 44 branches and 10,200 members.

The trained nurses of the Red Cross are called relief nurses, relief being the military term covering the whole *personnel* trained by the Society for service to the navy and army in time of war. They are trained for three years in the main hospital of the Red Cross, Tokio, and in those belonging to the branches.

Probationers must be between 16 and 30 years of age and unmarried. Their training includes time in military and naval hospitals; they must belong to the educated classes, and sign a contract to answer Red Cross calls for fifteen years. Their expenses and salary are paid when in the service of the Society.

The first year of training is devoted to theory and the subsequent years to practical training. The theory taught includes anatomy and physiology, bandaging, nursing, disinfection, obstetrics, and gynaecology, the care of infants, surgical technique, medical treatment, massage, and the use of instruments, first aid, hygiene, the elements of pharmacology, and the transport of patients. Instruction is also given to Relief personnel, ethics, moral counsel to nurses, rules of saluting, and etiquette of Relief Corps, grades and titles of military and naval officers, international treaties on Red Cross work, the history of the Japanese Society, and the organisation of relief work in maritime warfare; also the care of patients at the front, the disposal of deceased patients, and their wills.

Nurses who excel both in theory and practice have a special additional six months in the Red Cross Hospital, Tokio, with special diplomas qualifying as Head Nurses.

From Syria.—Miss Wortabet gave an account of nursing in Syria, and said that people were of two extremes there—the uncivilised and the extremely civilised. This constituted the difficulty of nursing organisation. She described her attempts to train Syrian probationers, and urged the development of the women of the country as trained nurses rather than that the helm should be taken by foreigners.

So ended the Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council—a meeting which none of those privileged to take part in it can ever forget.

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