

tions relating to the welfare of their patients," sooner or later we must put ourselves upon a common nursing basis, and work out what may be termed a Nursing Esperanto which would, in the course of time, give us a universal nursing language, and universal nursing methods for all of our affiliated countries. Carried away by the enthusiasm of the moment, and the inspiration of the occasion, I expressed to Mrs. Fenwick my belief in the necessity of working at nursing education and advancement from an international standpoint.

Mrs. Robb then discussed the question of an international standard, and concluded by saying that, in a broad general way, these international meetings have been of the greatest value. It is an inspiration, she said, and encouragement to know that other countries are facing the same problems, working towards the same common standard, a common standard that I feel convinced would be realised much more rapidly did we concentrate our attention a little more upon the methods employed in the actual making of the nurses, and did we unanimously insist upon rendering universal a thorough practical training which will supply a standard that should be the ultimate outcome of the combined readiness, experience, and deliberations of the nurses of all countries where modern nursing exists.

The Chairman said: We have listened with the very greatest pleasure to this admirable paper by Mrs. Hampton Robb. It is full of knowledge and full of suggestion, and it is not at all improbable that much she has thrown out to-day will ultimately be accepted by the nursing profession.

Now, I shall ask Sister Agnes Karll to tell us something about the condition of nursing in Germany.

#### THE TRAINING OF NURSES IN GERMANY.

Sister Agnes Karll, President of the German Nurses' Association, said:—

On the 1st of June, 1907, an administrative Act of the highest importance to the nursing profession, came into force in Prussia, when the examination regulations which had been enacted into law by the Federal Council of Germany were adopted in practice. State examination of nurses is now conducted by a Government Commission of three physicians. The examinations last for three days and are both theoretical and practical, the latter being conducted in a hospital. The State certificate, which is given to those who pass, may be withdrawn for cause.

The German training schools had shown great differences in their training. Six months was often all that was given in the Red Cross Mother Houses and to the St. John Sisters. Some City hospitals and the Diakonie-Verein had given one year. In other institutions there was entire lack of rule, and the training given was often one-sided. The period

of one year fixed by law was therefore an advance step. The desire of the Medical Department of the Board of Instruction to have the course of training fixed at two years was considered inadvisable at present by the Minister of War, and the purpose of legislation was largely to benefit the military nursing service. Some difficulties arose with the religious orders, but all have been smoothed out, and all but one have accepted the standards of State examination. A period of grace of two years was given, and over 25,000 nurses all told, including religious Sisters, have passed the requirements of the State. The effects are: to improve methods of teaching in the training schools; to enhance the respect of the public for nurses; to attract superior women into the profession.

The Chairman then said: I regret to say that M. G. Mesureur is not able to be present, but that we shall hear something tomorrow from M. André Mesureur; and, therefore, I think we will take his paper, by title, "The Education of Nurses under l'Assistance Publique, Paris." I should like to make it quite plain that the discussion this morning is an entirely open one, that everyone is invited to take part in it, and everyone invited on this platform, will, I know, be treated with courtesy by the audience.

#### NURSING EDUCATION IN FINLAND.

BARONESS MANNERHEIM then said the principal training school in Finland is that of the University Clinique, which consists of several different hospitals, each with a separate matron and different ways. This is far from satisfactory, and cannot result in anything but confusion. The establishment of a Preliminary Training School, where the standard is uniform for all, is an advance, but Baroness Mannerheim hopes that eventually the general training will be taken in one hospital, and that this will co-operate with special hospitals in one of which the pupil can, as a junior staff nurse, obtain special experience, subsequently returning as senior staff nurse to the former hospital.

#### NURSING EDUCATION IN SWEDEN.

MISS THERESE TAMM gave a brief account of the work of the Sophia Home in Stockholm in relation to nursing education, both as regards technical training and the training of personal character. The question of State Registration was, she said, altogether a new idea to the Swedes. She favoured voluntary organisation through a National Association of Nurses.

The meeting was then thrown open for discussion, and the CHAIRMAN called on the Hon. Sydney Holland, Chairman of the London Hospital, who had intimated his wish to speak, to address the meeting.

MR. HOLLAND began by claiming the Victoria Cross for an act of special bravery in speaking before ladies who had opposed him on every possible occasion. He claimed attention on the ground that literally the only thing he

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