

be nearly empty. She believed in Scotland a beginning had been made. What was now wanted was that volunteers should come forward to take an interest in the work, and express their readiness to follow the teachings of Elizabeth Fry, just as they had done those of Florence Nightingale.

MISS E. S. HALDANE, LL.D., said that she had been extremely interested in what they had just heard from Mrs. Bedford Fenwick. First, she must confess that she had never been inside an English prison, either as an inmate or as a visitor. However, she did occasionally visit the Scottish prisons, and knew a little of what went on there. In Scotland they were under the Prison Commissioners, intelligent men, at present very much interested in the subject about which Mrs. Fenwick had been speaking, and anxious to do all in their power. In Scottish prisons each cell was provided with a nice picture, which was occasionally changed, and also a mirror, and she believed that whatever else was smashed in a cell the mirror was never touched. The prisoners were always encouraged to put their caps on straight and to look as nice as they could. The Prison Commissioners in Scotland had appointed a trained nurse, a lady, to be the head of one of the principal women's prisons. That was a beginning which she hoped and believed would lead to further developments. Nurses were asked to apply for posts as wardresses, but she did not know that a great many had applied so far. She was afraid the nurses thought the work rather beneath them. It had yet to be brought home to them that this was really a work worthy of qualified and educated women, a work which was quite well paid, but which, no doubt, was very trying, though it was most interesting, as the wardresses were brought into contact with some of the saddest cases. At the same time there was hope in it, for there were cases which could be reformed, and, as a great many were really mental cases she always felt that a certain amount of training should be given to wardresses. She did not think that we could expect fully trained nurses to come forward to be wardresses. We might get them in the superior positions, but in any case they should have, as Mrs. Bedford Fenwick had said, a certain amount of mental training, because a large number of the prison cases were mental cases. But there was always a good deal of illness in prison, and sometimes even babies were born there, and there were also cases that were not severe enough to be sent to the hospital. For all these reasons those who had to do with prisons agreed that there was considerable scope for trained women. She quite agreed with the main point of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's speech, and that this matter was one which trained nurses should take into serious consideration.

SISTER KARLL said that perhaps all present were not aware that Mrs. Fry received some of her training at Kaiserswerth at the same period as Florence Nightingale, that the first wife of Pastor Fliedner really began her work in the prison of Dusseldorf, and it was this work which brought her into contact with her future husband. When Kaiserswerth was first founded, hospital work was

not thought of, only how to help fallen women and prisoners. A movement had been begun in Germany to secure educated women for the positions of prison wardresses, but the work was so hard that few of them could stand it, and it was also badly paid: It would have to be better regulated before many nurses could undertake it. She was glad the subject had been brought forward, and she would now try to see what could be done in Germany with regard to it, through the German Nurses' Association. It should be the highest privilege to be engaged in this work.

Mlle. CHAPTAL said that in France, and especially in Paris, both the nursing and domestic management in prisons were in the hands of women. In Paris a Sister had for years been in charge of one of the principal prisons, and had been specially trained for the work. No complaint was ever heard against their management. Everyone said they were perfectly well managed.

Miss Mary Burr, Miss C. J. Tilanus, of Holland, and Miss Edla Wortabet (Syria) also took part in this discussion, the latter giving some very interesting information concerning the nursing of prisoners in a municipal hospital in Beyrout.

SOCIAL SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH HOSPITALS.

MISS GOODRICH then gave a most interesting account of a work which she said was comparatively new in New York, her remarks being illustrated by a chart.

Miss Goodrich said that in connection with the Massachusetts Hospital, Boston, it occurred to her that it was very little use to prescribe tonics for patients which they could not obtain because they had no money. They could not get relief from work, and change of air, because no means were provided to give them these. She then described the organisation through which a connecting link was formed between the patient, the hospital, and the patient's friends. Various auxiliary committees were appointed, handling different departments of work, such as tuberculosis, psychopathic, and what was called convalescent relief. This organisation was managed by an Executive Committee composed of the Chairmen of these Committees, the President of the Board of Trustees of the Hospital, and the head of the Training School, and under them an Executive Secretary who was a nurse, under whom were placed all the voluntary workers.

The reason why the city should carry out this work was because, from the standpoint of the community, the speedy and permanent cure of the sick is an economy. The patients were frequently sent out very quickly in the emergency service, perhaps at the end of two or three weeks. The idea of the work was that when a patient was going out, or when a patient came in, the executive officer and her assistants found out the condition of the family and the condition of the patient. If the patient, on discharge, needed to be sent to a convalescent home, he or she was so sent; inquiries were also made as to whether the children at home were fed and cared for; if not, then food was supplied to them, and clothing if necessary. The chart showed the many headings under which the patients were treated, and the work sub-divided. In regard to

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