

of the Matron of a large London Hospital, she thought that our fault in England was what the Americans were always teaching us, that we are not flexible enough, our efforts were too much in one line, and we forgot the side lines for which our nurses should also be trained. She heartily seconded the vote of thanks to Lady Helen Munro Ferguson for her address. This was enthusiastically carried.

LADY HELEN MUNRO FERGUSON, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, said that as one who was untrained she had the greatest respect for trained nurses. She considered it a great honour to preside over that Session of the Congress, and she hoped it would be a great success, and a source of encouragement to all.

THE PLACE OF MASSAGE IN NURSING.

In the Small Hall on Wednesday morning, Miss THERESE TAMM, the leader of the Swedish delegation, presided over the Session on "The Place of Massage in Nursing." She said she had been probably invited to take the chair because massage was, and had been for long, a special characteristic of Sweden. Massage in Sweden dated a long way back, even to heathen times, but it was not then used in the service of science, but more in accordance with the instinct of the people. In Sweden there were also several bathing and watering places where a kind of clay massage was given. These watering places existed in ancient times, and an almost supernatural significance was attached to the use of clay, but the science of modern times taught that it was just the massage, *i.e.*, the rubbing itself, that was of such vital importance. At present there were no bathing or watering places in Sweden where massage could not be obtained, and medical gymnastics were often given by the doctors themselves. Miss Tamm then called upon Sister Walborg Nordin, Assistant Matron at the Sophia Home, Stockholm, to read the paper prepared by a doctor on the committee of that institution.

THE RELATION OF NURSES TO MASSAGE.

SISTER WALBORG in the paper which she presented, said that the idea of massage possessed at the present time, not only by the general public, but also by some medical practitioners, was that it did not signify much more than an easily learnt manual treatment for relieving aches and pains. It was important, therefore, that great stress should be laid on the fact that massage was already a developed science, which was gradually becoming more and more perfected and invaluable in the medical treatment of a multitude of internal and external ailments.

It demanded not only thorough technical skill, but also a certain amount of theoretical knowledge, especially in such subjects as anatomy, physiology, and pathology. Other requisites were, a specially trained ability to discern by means of touch the pathological changes in a patient, and physical strength, combined with extreme softness and lightness of touch. A combination of massage and medical gymnastics were in many cases necessary for the successful treatment of a patient. While

agreeing that many of the necessary characteristics of a good nurse and masseuse were the same, she did not advocate the practice of both nursing and massage by the same person, as she thought that person would soon find she was serving two masters. Further, those who had only received training in general nursing should only undertake massage after minute medical instruction, as in many cases, such as those of tuberculosis and thrombosis, the result would be most disastrous. She, of course, did not mean to say that the training of a nurse would not be an advantage to the massage-gymnast.

Miss Tamm then called upon Miss Procopé to present her paper.

MESSAGE TEACHING AT THE NEW SCHOOL FOR NURSES, PARIS.

MISS PROCOPE, Professor of Massage at the Nursing School of the Assistance Publique at the Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris, read an interesting paper in which she said that the science of massage was not yet placed upon a proper footing in France, and its practice was somewhat in disrepute, owing to the prevalence of charlatanism. It had been, therefore, something of a difficult venture to organise a correct system of instruction for the pupils of the school. Difficult and complicated massage such as was needed for treatment in private cases, was not required for these pupils, who would not go to private duty, but only serve in the hospitals. The whole science of massage could not be taught in two years' time. The pupils were instructed in the procedures of simple massage, being divided into groups of twenty. The pupils first practised on one another and then upon patients. Several rooms fitted up for the purpose were at their disposal, where gymnastic apparatus and baths were also available.

MISS LEWENHAUPT, a Swedish lady, and a graduate of the Royal Central Institute of Gymnastics, then spoke. She also disapproved of the combination of massage and nursing.

MISS LUCY ROBINSON, of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses, and MISS ROSALIND PAGET, MISS JACOBSON, and others joined in the discussion, in the course of which Miss Robinson remarked that her Association asked to be represented; but they received no reply to their request, a statement concerning which there must, we think, be some misapprehension, as the organising committee have received no such request. The general trend of the discussion certainly was that the practice of nursing and massage should be kept distinct. This ended the morning session on Wednesday, July 21st.

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