

Nursing in Italy.

Queen Elena, of Italy, visited the Polyclinic Hospital at Rome on the morning of the 8th inst. Princess Doria, and Signora Maraini, with the hospital authorities, received her Majesty, and accompanied her in her visit to the new building for the Scuola Convitto Nurses' Home for Professional Nurses. Her Majesty expressed great satisfaction and her interest in the work; offering to send some prints for the Nurses' sitting-room and refectory. She afterwards visited with Professor Bastianelli the wards where the School will commence their work. The press in reporting this visit mentions that "a staff of highly trained nurses has been engaged for the practical training of the pupils, and the doctors of the Polyclinic will impart the scientific instruction," adding that "a work so highly modern and rising under the protection of the Queen who herself acted as the first nurse of Italy in the days of the Messina and Reggio disaster, must surely be attended by success."

As we have reported, a highly qualified English nurse, Miss Dorothy Snell, will superintend this new School of Nursing at Rome. She leaves England for Italy on Saturday, the 26th inst., with the heartfelt good wishes of her colleagues at home for success in this most interesting new work. Although so unlike in temperament, the English and Italian peoples are wonderfully sympathetic; the truth is we love their sunny smiles, and no doubt they realise there is something satisfactory in our solidarity.

A Tempting Invitation.

The Executive Committee of the two National Societies which form the American Federation of Nurses, have extended most cordial invitations to all officers and honorary members of the International Council of Nurses to go to the United States this spring to be present at the annual meetings to be held in New York in the third week in May. American nurses intend to have some appropriate commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Nightingale School at St. Thomas' Hospital. How delightful it would be to accept this tempting invitation! But, alas! we fear but few will this year have the happiness of enjoying such a holiday. Until Registration in the United Kingdom is an accomplished fact we have got to sit tight at home, and all spare pennies must go in furthering legislation. There will come a time—but that is another story!

Preliminary Training for Nurses.

THE PRELIMINARY NURSING SCHOOL AT GUY'S HOSPITAL.

It happened that when visiting Guy's Hospital last week, to obtain some information from the Matron, Miss L. V. Haughton, as to the Preliminary Nursing School, I was directed to her office, and in the outer office were a number of probationers, in neat mauve print uniforms and spotless caps and aprons. They were the class of pupils of the Preliminary School, who had just passed their examination and were being interviewed by the Matron before admission to the wards.

All the probationers at Guy's Hospital, whether ordinary or paying pupils, are required to pass a satisfactory course of instruction and practical work in the Preliminary School, which forms part of the Henrietta Raphael Nurses' Home. Seven weeks is allowed for each course, six full weeks of instruction and three or four days for the practical examination. The remaining days allow the two Sisters in charge of the School to have a few days' holiday before taking in a new set of pupils.

The preliminary probationers have no intercourse with those working in the hospital, the School being kept entirely distinct, but they are responsible under the Sisters for the housework of three floors in the Home, with the exception of some of the rougher work, and are thus trained in the habits of order, method, and thoroughness expected of them when they reach the wards.

Each probationer pays six guineas for board, residence, and tuition, provides herself with indoor uniform, and pays her personal laundry. She has a separate bedroom, in which hot and cold water are laid on, and there is a common sitting-room besides class rooms, lecture room, museum, and kitchen fitted up for the practice of sick room cookery.

The course includes tuition and practical work in elementary anatomy, physiology, hygiene, dispensing, bandaging, the making of dressings, use of instruments, bed-making, house work, and sick room cookery. The sick room for the nurses is under the charge of the Preliminary School Sisters, and the pupils in this way get an insight into practical nursing and accustomed to the appliances used in a ward, though they do not perform any of the actual nursing. They also do the cookery for the nurses' sick room.

The pupils go on duty at eight o'clock, and, with an interval at 9.30, when they attend prayers in the Chapel, they are occupied with the practical work of the Home till 10.30 a.m.

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