

Our Foreign Letter.

MATERNITY TRAINING IN HOLLAND.

DEAR EDITOR,—Would it interest your readers to hear about the training of maternity nurses (I mean those nurses who assist the doctor or midwife, and nurse mother and child after the confinement) which Nosokomos has instituted?

Up to the present moment the only way of obtaining training as a maternity nurse was to enter as a probationer one of the maternity hospitals. Only certificated nurses are admitted. The training lasts one year, however most of the time is given to gynecological work. But Holland has only four maternity hospitals, which form part of the university hospitals, and the number of candidates being much larger than the number of vacant places it is rather difficult to get admitted. This induces us to seek an outlet and try some other method of training maternity nurses. Some excellent work being done by Dr. Th. H. van der Velde at Haarlem in the way of training day nurses, who go to people of moderate means. We asked his help for our scheme, and he kindly accepted our proposal to institute a training for maternity nurses which will not be given in an hospital but in district nursing. Dr. van der Velde has a large practice as accoucheur; he founded some years ago an association for the care of poor lying-in women, which does splendid work. The new course for maternity nurses will take eight months. Dr. van der Velde will give the theoretical lectures and demonstrations, and control the practical training of the nurses, who during the first weeks will work under the constant supervision of a Superintendent, a certificated general and midwifery nurse. They will have the whole care of two or three mothers and babies, doing their work still under control of doctor and superintendent. At the end of their training they will pass an examination which will last a fortnight.

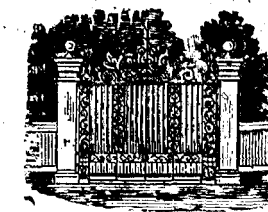
This training will have advantages, but also a drawback. The drawback is that although the pupils will assist at confinements, they will but rarely have the opportunity of seeing cases which want surgical help. These, of course, are sent to the hospitals. But as all the pupils are certificated nurses who must be skilled in surgical and operative work, the drawback does not seem so very great, whereas the advantages are many. In the first place the pupils will not only learn to nurse maternity cases, but they will also get some notions about district nursing. Besides, it will be an advantage not to be obliged any more to conform to the strict regulations of the hospital, but to be able to dispose freely of their time once the work done. The training is given gratuitously, but the pupils will have to pay for their board and lodgings, and this will be a drawback in the beginning, the Dutch nurses being accustomed to get some salary from the first moment they enter the hospital. But I trust that the more healthy principle of paying for training, and getting in return good teaching will soon be familiar to everybody.

J. C. VAN LANSCHOT-HUBRECHT.

Secretary to the Dutch Nurses' Association.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The Society of Women Journalists has issued its fifteenth Annual Report, and makes a most interesting little budget. With brilliant Lady McLaren as President, Mrs. H. T. Bulstrode as Chairman of Council,

and Mrs. Baillie Reynolds as Vice-Chairman, the members have a trio of charming women in office. Forty-six new members have been elected during the past year, and much hard work for their benefit—social and professional—has been accomplished. Every woman writer of note should give her support to this excellent society.

Dr. E. Maude Marsden has been appointed House Surgeon at St. Mary's Hospitals, Manchester, for a term of six months. This is the first appointment at this hospital of a woman to the resident medical staff. It will be remembered that the Board of the Manchester Royal Infirmary have, so far, declined to appoint a woman medical officer.

Dr. Janet T. Miller and Dr. Jessie C. Russell have been appointed as Senior and Junior Resident Medical Officers respectively at the East Poorhouse Hospital, Dundee. Dr. Miller was formerly *locum tenens* at the hospital, while Dr. Russell is at present acting as Medical Resident there.

The Dowager Queen of Sweden, whose interest in all that concerns the welfare of her fellow countrymen and women is well known, and who has been spending some months in this country, has shown a great interest in the Swedish community in London during the Christmas and New Year season. The Scandinavian West-End Mission received a gift of money, and the Scandinavian Temperance Home several Christmas gifts for the Swedish sailors, and on the New Year's Eve her Majesty arranged an entertainment at the Swedish Seamen's Hall in Rotherhithe.

There is great competition as to the honour of representing Joan of Arc at the Army Pageant at Fulham Palace in June, when the maid is to appear in full battle array, surrounded by her faithful knights, and carrying the banner of victory. The selection will be made amongst the many applicants, including a peeress of the realm, by Mr. F. R. Benson.

Meanwhile, the canonisation of the "Blessed Joan" is being proceeded with, and within two years we may expect her acclaimed as a full-blown saint. But Joan will always be, to those who love her well, the simple maid, who, following the dictates of conscience, held on the straight course, though that course led to the stake, in her patriotic love for king and country, so ill requited and so tardily recognised by the Church which should have been her support what time her brave spirit found freedom through physical agony.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)