

## International News.

### FROM BELGIUM.

We learn that Dr. F. Sano, of Antwerp, is already kindly interesting himself in the 1912 International Meeting, that there is great satisfaction in Belgium that it is to be held so near as Cologne, and already there is active movement towards affiliation. This is very pleasant news, as all the fraternal delegates from Belgium were so charming and kind in London that we should all be happier to have a Belgian Council of Nurses within the international group.

### FROM GERMANY.

Sister Karll, our President, writes that information has been sought of her by the German Home Secretary concerning the work of the International Council, and this for the Imperial Consul-General at Sydney. This is typical, we fear, of the two nations. Whilst our own people in Australasia have so far taken little interest in this wonderful Federation of Nurses, founded in England, German officials in our Commonwealth appeal to their Home Office in Berlin for information! Sad but true.

During her recent South German tour, Sister Karll found such an enthusiasm for Cologne that she writes: "I feel sure the Gürzenich which will hold 1,278 persons, will not be too large for our needs, and we shall feel quite happy in the place where German Emperors were feasted hundreds of years ago, and the Rhine is just the right course to Kaiserswerth if we go about it the right way. My tour was highly interesting, and I hope has done much to further our ends. In my lectures in Munich, Tuebingen, Stuttgart, Heidelberg, and Frankfurt, I reviewed the conditions of the nursing profession in Germany, and explained the work of our International Council, and gave a report of our splendid Congress in London. Doctors are enquiring about State Registration—one would start a nursing school to prepare for it, the nurses to be taught nursing by nurses. He told me our Association should train teachers for the training schools. Isn't that good? Another wishes all information about post-graduate teaching in England and America. I told him of Miss Nutting's system in New York. This pleased him greatly, and he is coming to Cologne.

"Germany has had a great loss and sorrow in the death of one of our dear old pioneers—Frau Lina Morgenstern. You may have met her in 1904, as she was one of the best-known women in Berlin. She was a great and successful social reformer. She started the first public kitchens in 1866, and worked in them to the

last, though she was 79! In 1907 she showed Miss Nutting and me one herself, and also one of her household schools, and told us many stories of her wonderful life. In 1870-71 she and her husband, who is blind, and at least 84 years old, never left the Berlin railway stations for weeks by day or night to bring nourishment to the wounded and sick soldiers who were brought to Berlin, or passed through. She started the Association for Kindergarten, and another to diminish infant mortality (Kinderschutz verein), also an Association of Housewives, to enable the buying of household goods in large quantities at cheaper rates. She edited the Journal for Housewives, and wrote much. A dear old soul—a blessing to have known her personally. Is it not strange that Frau Morgenstern and two other of our elder leading women pioneers are Jewesses—all very simple, kind, and not rich—as they have given to others all that they had?"

## Practical Points.

Dr. Thomas D. Luke, writing in the *British Medical Journal* on the subject of the preparation of soured milk,

says:—I have been working at the matter from the dietetic standpoint during the past year, and have, like many other medical men in all probability, been disappointed with the results obtained with the different lactic acid tablets on the market; also with the comparative uselessness of the simple apparatus sold with these tablets for preparation of the sour milk. With any of these in our climate it is next to impossible to keep the temperature from varying considerably, and especially from falling below that at which the optimum growth of the bacilli and formation of the acid takes place. I have tried almost all the tablets on the market, and one liquid culture sold in small tubes. This last, on the whole, was best, but almost prohibitively expensive. I have now adopted the use of milk cultures, and find with a temperature of 108 degs. to 110 degs. a very pleasant curdled milk is obtained in about five hours. I use a small portion of the curd of the previous day—about a salt-spoonful suffices.

I have replaced the simple tin apparatus and night-light by a wooden box about 2 by 2 by 3 ft., lined with asbestos, and fitted with a metal tray, sliding out, and placed over two eight candle-power electric lamps, with the thermometer passed through the top of the box, as in a bacteriological oven. The front side of the box falls down by means of a hinge, allowing the removal of the metal tray, which will hold some thirty glasses of milk. The front is fitted with a little sliding door about 2 in. by 8 in., and by means of this a supply of cooler air is regulated to keep the box from getting too hot.

This apparatus was made for me by a joiner, is inexpensive, and serves for the culture of any germs on suitable media.

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