

Rome to discuss hospital matters, were invited, at our Direttore's suggestion, by Miss Snell, to visit the S.C.R.E. Princess Doria and Mme. Maraini helped us receive and show them in groups over the Home and the wards we nurse. They asked endless questions, were exceedingly appreciative, and one from Lucca (the first hospital which gave me admittance) asked an appointment from Miss Snell, to gain more explicit information and advice from her regarding a scheme for reforming the nursing in his hospital. One and all seemed to agree that some change in existing conditions must soon be effected; each of them asked for copies of our regulations and our programme. At the end of their visit, after writing their names in our visitors' book, Signor Ballori, Direttore Generale of all the Roman hospitals, whose portrait adorns the Chapel of the Policlinico, made a very appropriate speech, thanking the Committee and the Matron, and hoping that other schools for nurses would be formed after our example.

The next incident of importance was the visit of some thirty Italian girls who were being conducted through the sights of Rome by the Editor of one of the best Italian magazines (*Vita Femminile Italiana*), Signora Bisi Albini. The Exhibition tickets made it easy for her abonnées to come for a ten days' visit to the capital, and on the programme laid out for them was "una visita alla Scuola per infermiere professionale al Policlinico."

Again, aided by our Committee ladies—*incomparabili* beyond imagination—we did the honours of the place, probationers as well as Sisters and Staff Nurses helping to serve the guests with refreshments and to show them the Convitto and the wards. They were much impressed by the seriousness of the work, and (to them) the strange blending of "luxury" (in home surroundings, piano, etc.) and "drudgery" (the routine ward work described by the pros.). It will need many visits, in fact, to make hospital ethics at all comprehensible to the average Italian woman, but the charm of our English nurses will have helped to show the key to the enigma, and our guests departed with intent to explain to any friend or relative who had the "nursing vocation" that the S.C.R.E. would give them full satisfaction as regards training and the exercise of abnegation, whilst reassuring their parents that it was also extremely "chic."

The wards they all found beautiful. As a matter of fact, Miss Snell, with her Sisters and Staff Nurses, have managed to drag them up to heights undreamt of heretofore, though still sadly far from what they desire in many respects. The linen is always badly got up and coarse, chairs are always deficient, idem lockers, whilst the patients' visitors always superabound. But we have trebled the number of chairs, quintupled that of screens, and sextupled that of basins (one patient declared he was washed six times per day in boiling water), whilst plants and flowers always give the final note of cheerfulness and refinement.

The Queen, at her last visit, thought the wards lovely. She came unexpectedly, at 9.30 one morning, accompanied by a lady in waiting, and was asked her name by a new maid who opened the

door of the Convitto! "Che nome, Signora?" As the doctors had just finished their rounds everything was most orderly, no meal going on, and convalescents not yet up. The flowers happened to be especially abundant also. As such perfect order is not usually found in her hospitals at surprise visits, Her Majesty was pleased, and in the next fortnight sent Miss Snell four huge supplies of roses of every description for her wards, and later on another of clove and rose-coloured carnations.

The formation of a branch of the Guild of St. Barnabas (the first in Italy) has been carried out this spring by Miss Weedon Cooke, at Miss Snell's desire, and with the hope that our Italian nurses will later find means to create a Guild for themselves with the same object of "assisting trained nurses in maintaining a high standard of faith and practice in the exercise of their profession, for the amendment of their lives and souls, and to 'nорiche' more love."

Holidays are now well to the fore; some are already over, some in process (I am writing from the Tyrol as a matter of fact, and Sister Kell must be already in Ireland), all are planned for, which has been a work of patience and of great difficulty for our Matron, as the wards do not close and only slightly diminish in heaviness during the summer months. Yet nearly fifty nurses and probationers are to have from 10 days (the late arrivals) to six weeks' leave before the winter's course sets in.

A big garden party at the English Embassy took place on Coronation Day, and, of course, a special service in the English Church. The S.C.R.E. staff formed an important contingent at these functions. M. A. T.

(To be concluded.)

#### A HOTEL HOSPITAL.

The *International Hospital Record* reports that one of the numerous unique features to be offered by the new McAlpin Hotel, now in course of construction on the south-west corner of 34th Street and Broadway, New York City, is a fully equipped miniature hospital where cases, no matter how serious, can be treated with exactly the same care as in the best up-to-date private sanatorium. It is to be arranged so as to be able to comfortably accommodate twelve patients at the one time. Expert surgeons, physicians, and trained nurses will be in attendance so that surgical operations of any character can be skillfully handled at a few moments' notice. This practical and extraordinary addition to hotel accommodations is to be situated on the twenty-third floor of this largest hotel in the world, so that a patient can enjoy the same quiet and comfort as though being treated in the most tranquil locality.

#### THE ARCHITECTS' REGISTER.

The Society of Architects have prepared a Bill for the Registration of qualified members of their profession. No doubt, as they have votes, time will be found by the Government to consider this measure.

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