

OUR FOREIGN LETTER.

THE WOMEN'S EXHIBITION AND CONGRESS AT BERLIN.

DEAR EDITOR,—I want to give you a really good report for your journal about the Women's Exhibition and Congress just opened in Berlin, but it must be a few words this week and more later, as this week my time is so fully occupied. Besides the exhibition, we have a tremendous National Women's Congress, which takes all my time, as our members are streaming towards it from all over the country. Sunday and Monday we have the annual meetings of the Grand Council of the German National Women's Council, so you see, though I have you in mind, I can only give you a few bits to-day.

First, the Women's Exhibition and Congress are a *tremendous* success. A study of weeks would not suffice to see everything in its entirety. The historical Nursing Exhibit is simply a gem. Eighteen Catholic Orders allowed me to have their Dresden things, and we have also the lovely exhibit of Kaiserswerth shown at Dresden. These are placed in small rooms to right and left of the larger rooms filled by the professional nurses. Besides our Association there are: The Berlin Municipal Hospitals, the Hamburgische Staatskrankenanstalten, the Victoria House, the Jewish Nurses' Association, Diaconie-Verein, Nurses' Inventions, the Midwives' Show, including splendid old books and statistics, the Heilgymnastick, lovely photographs from institutions of district nursing taken for Berlin, but all to be at our exhibition at Cologne, also statistics and beautiful pictures to gladden the heart of our historians. I was appointed head of the Nursing Section of the Exhibition, and I am glad to say everything was ready on the opening day.

Her Majesty the Empress opened the Exhibition on Saturday morning. She visited many parts of it, coming specially to the Nursing Section, although a bit out of the way. I was presented to her, and she spoke of the great amount of work we must have had to arrange it, and greatly admired a wonderful bit of wood-carving, a memorial of the Hamburg-Eppendorf nurses, with the names engraved on it of all the nurses who have died after work in its wards. She also took a great interest in the very small trunk fitted with everything for the use of a nurse in war. Her Majesty talked very kindly to the Sisters of the Dominican Order, and to the Deaconesses of the Paul Gerhardt-Stift, some of whom had nursed her some years ago. The German papers are filled with unstinted praise of the Women's Exhibition. Crowds fill it, and the Congress, all day. The hall holds 2,500 people, but every day the morning and evening session have to be repeated the following day in another hall.

On Friday we shall discuss nursing. Graf Praschma will give a report from the Catholic Orders, and Grafın Herzberg, Matron of the Lazaruskrankenhaus will speak for the Deaconesses, General Surgeon Dr. Werner for the

Red Cross, and I speak for the professional Nurses on "The Duties of the State and of Society towards Professional Nurses."

I send you just this hasty word knowing of your deep interest in all our nursing concerns. I shall send you a further account at an early date.

Yours ever truly,

AGNES KARLL,

President,

International Council of Nurses.

THE TRAINED WOMEN NURSES' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Committee of the above proposed Society will be held on Saturday, March 9, at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., to consider a draft outline of the constitution and benefits suggested by Miss Mollett and to receive communications from the Insurance Commissioners. It is greatly to be hoped that the members of the Committee will make an effort to be present, as it is desirable that the meeting should be as representative as possible. It is felt strongly by many nurses that a monopoly of nurses' insurance by any one society, would not be conducive to their best interests, and we are pleased to note that at the recent Conference of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, at which this question was discussed, Mr. Pennant, the Hon. Secretary, stated that no pressure would be put upon Queen's nurses in this connection. Nurses also think that the best paid clerical posts should be filled by women; and this is very improbable unless they manage their own finances.

SCOTTISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION AND NATIONAL INSURANCE.

At a meeting of the Scottish Nurses' Association held on Monday at the Christian Institute, Glasgow, the President, Sir William Macewen, being in the chair, Miss Paterson, one of the Insurance Commissioners for Scotland, addressed the members on the National Insurance Act in relation to Approved Societies. She pointed out that there were two agencies through which the Act would be worked, the Post Office and Approved Societies. The Post Office was not insurance at all, it was only a savings bank, and rather less would come out than had been put in.

Dr. McGregor Robertson said that, on an average, trained nurses were healthier lives than women in general and that therefore a society for nurses only would probably offer benefits not obtainable from a society which took in women in all kinds of employment. It was probable that in Scotland there was a sufficient number of nurses to form a Nurses' Friendly Society. The question was whether they should not take preliminary steps to do so at once.

On the question being put by the Chairman a very large number of nurses supported the proposition that the Scottish Nurses' Association should take steps to form a Nurses' Friendly Society and expressed their willingness to join it.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)